



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
655 K Street, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20001-2399
T 202 828 0400
aamc.org

July 10, 2019

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schakowsky and Burgess:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write in support of the Educating Medical Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency Readiness (EMPOWER) for Health Act of 2019 (H.R. 2781).

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health care through innovative medical education, cutting-edge patient care, and groundbreaking medical research. Its members are all 154 accredited U.S. medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 80 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC serves the leaders of America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and their more than 173,000 full-time faculty members, 89,000 medical students, 129,000 resident physicians, and more than 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences.

The Title VII health professions programs are a petri dish for innovation that prepare our current and future physician workforce to respond to the nation's constantly changing health care needs. Title VII programs increase the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health care workforce and improve access to and quality of care for vulnerable populations — including children and families living on low incomes, veterans, seniors, and individuals in underserved communities.

As physician workforce shortages are projected to grow across all specialties — up to 122,000 total physicians by 2032 — Title VII programs help fill the supply of health professionals not met by traditional market forces by providing scholarships, loan repayment programs, and grants to academic institutions, students, and non-profit organizations.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to reauthorize the Title VII programs under the EMPOWER for Health Act to ensure these programs continue to help shape our health care workforce. At the same time, we continue to urge appropriators to provide at least \$424 million for the current Title VII programs in fiscal year 2020.

Again, we thank you for your ongoing support of these critical health care workforce programs and urge the passage of H.R. 2781. We look forward to continuing our work with you to ensure the health care workforce meets the needs of all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and "F".

Karen Fisher, JD
Chief Public Policy Officer