

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide \$280 million for the Title VII health professions education and training programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). These programs support health care workforce development and education, train providers in interdisciplinary settings to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, and increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

The Title VII programs have a longstanding history of increasing the supply of primary care professionals, expanding access to care in rural and urban underserved areas, and developing a workforce that reflects the nation's diversity and the needs of patients. At a time when the country is facing health provider shortages, it is critical to demonstrate a strong commitment to Title VII, which includes the following programs:

- Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)
- Allied Health
- Centers of Excellence (COE)
- Clinical Training in Interprofessional Practice
- Faculty Loan Repayment
- Geriatrics Training
- Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP)
- Mental and Behavioral Health programs
- Oral Health Training
- Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment
- Primary Care Medicine
- Public Health and Preventive Medicine
- Rural Physician Training Grants
- Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS)
- Teaching Health Center (THC) Planning Grants
- Workforce Information and Analysis

These education and training programs guide current and aspiring health professionals to high-demand careers in areas of greatest need. Support for these programs will ensure that the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce continue to improve, and

that the workforce is prepared to meet the country's evolving and emerging health care needs. As such, we urge you to include \$280 million for these programs in FY 2017.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed Jeanne Shaheen

Tom Blaine

Chuck Schumer

Shirley

Bob Casey, Jr.

Cynthia Lamm

Mazie Hirono

Patrick Leahy

Brian Schatz

Richard Blumenthal

Benjamin L. Cardin

Al Franken

Jon Tester

Ron Wyden

Mitt F. Romney

Barack Obama

Kirsten Gillibrand

Debbie Stabenow

Heidi Heitkamp

Sherrill Brown

Edward J. Markey

Elizabeth Warren

John H. Hickenlooper

Rahm Emanuel

Michael Bennet

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