

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 15, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
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) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide \$424 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 that we continue to support the programs that advance our health care workforce, such as:

- Area Health Education Centers (AHEC),
- Allied Health,
- Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training,
- 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),
- Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression,
- Teaching Health Center (THC) Planning Grants, and
- Workforce Information and Analysis.

These education and training programs guide current and aspiring health professionals to high-demand careers in areas of greatest need. We greatly appreciate your support for these

programs to 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 \$424 million for these programs in FY 2020.

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

Sincerely,

Jack Reed

Paul V. Holman

Eric M. Lipton

August Fitz

Dianne Feinstein

Mark Warner

Maggie Hironaka

Kyrsten Sinema

Jeffrey D. Merkley

Tommy Tuberville

Jon Tester

Elizabeth Warren

Rakut Menang

Shahome

Tom Udare

Junaid Brown

Jeanne Shakes

Benjamin F. Cardin

Larry Carter

Brian Schatz

Tim Smit

J. B.

Jenny Beldi

Mazzi K. Diano

Richard Blumenthal

Rebecca Petersen

Edward J. Markey

Bob Sanders

Amy Klobuchar

Mr Wyder

Jan Rosen

Kirsten Gillibrand

Bob Casey, Jr.

Chris Coons

Frank

Mary F. Cant

Catherine Cortez Masto

Shirley

FY20 Title VII funding

Read each pair from the top of the letter from left to right

Reed
Van Hollen

Murphy
King

Feinstein
Heinrich

Hassan
Sinema

Merkley
Manchin

Tester
Warren

Menendez
Whitehouse

Udall
Brown

Shaheen
Cardin

Peters
Schatz

Smith
Booker

Baldwin
Hirono

Blumenthal
Stabenow

Markey
Sanders

Klobuchar
Wyden

Rosen
Gillibrand

Casey
Coons

Kaine
Bennet

Cortez Masto
Harris