



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

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chair
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), we appreciate your efforts to reauthorize the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) health workforce programs via the Title VII Health Care Workforce Act of 2019 (S. 2997). We continue to urge Congress to increase federal investment in the Title VII programs to ensure that our nation's health care workforce meets the needs of all patients.

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 comprise all 154 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian 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 173,000 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, and seniors.

As physician workforce shortages are projected to grow across all specialties — between 46,900 and 121,900 total physicians by 2032 — Title VII programs help address the needs of underserved communities by providing scholarships, loan repayment programs, and grants to academic institutions, students, and nonprofit organizations.

The Honorable Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray

December 11, 2019

Page 2

While we are grateful for the Committee's consideration of the Title VII Health Care Workforce Act of 2019, the AAMC urges lawmakers to work in a bipartisan, bicameral manner to provide robust authorization levels for these essential programs. At the same time, we will continue to encourage Senate appropriators to allocate at least \$424 million for the current Title VII programs in fiscal year 2020.

Again, we thank you for your ongoing efforts to reauthorize these critical health care workforce programs. We look forward to continuing our work with you to ensure the health care workforce meets the needs of all Americans. If you have any questions, please contact Brett Roude from my staff at broude@aamc.org or 202-753-5726.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Fisher, JD
Chief Public Policy Officer

cc: The Honorable Jack Reed
The Honorable Mike Enzi