

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Capito and Ranking Member Baldwin:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide \$980 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 varied needs of our entire population, including in rural and underserved areas, and ensure that the health workforce is equipped to serve the nation's current and future health care demands.

Health provider shortages have led to widening gaps in care for our most vulnerable patients, including an aging population that requires more health care services. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that by 2030 one in five Americans will be over the age of 65 and within the decade, older Americans will outnumber children for the first time in US history. Further, HRSA estimates that 98 million Americans already live in federally designated primary care Health Professions Shortage Areas (HPSAs), 68 million live in dental health HPSAs, and 147 million live in mental health HPSAs. Approximately 16,700 primary care practitioners, 11,400 dental health practitioners, and 7,300 mental health practitioners are needed to serve these areas. On top of this, HRSA also projects a shortage of over 141,000 full-time equivalent physicians across all specialties in the United States in 2038.

The Title VII health professions programs support the next generation of health care professionals, including physicians, physician assistants, dentists, geriatricians, mental and behavioral health providers, public health practitioners, social workers, and other frontline health care workers critical to addressing the nation's varied health needs. These programs shape the future health workforce at all stages of the continuum through recruitment, education, training, and development. For example, Area Health Education Centers facilitate community-based training opportunities, support the recruitment and training of future physicians in rural areas, and respond to local health needs.

Additionally, the Title VII pathway programs help connect students from different backgrounds, including individuals from rural and urban areas to health careers. As the need for more health providers grows, it is crucial that there are enough faculty to train the future health workforce. However, hiring and retaining qualified faculty has only become more difficult. The Title VII Faculty Loan Repayment program incentivizes skilled providers to mentor the next

generation and, in doing so, bolster the health workforce pipeline. Lastly, the Title VII programs complement and reinforce each other by targeting unique health care and workforce gaps — separately and in coordination — for example, by promoting training in interprofessional care across disciplines.

Our nation’s health workforce has carried us through overlapping public health emergencies, despite health professional shortages, provider burnout, and an over-capacity health care system. At a time when the country is facing these unprecedented provider shortages and public health challenges, it is necessary to continue to support and strengthen our commitment to programs that advance our health care workforce such as:

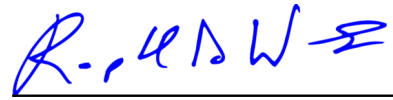
- Area Health Education Centers (AHEC),
- Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training,
- Centers of Excellence (COE),
- Clinical Training in Interprofessional Practice,
- Faculty Loan Repayment,
- Geriatrics Training,
- Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP),
- Mental and Behavioral Health programs,
- Medical Student Education grants,
- Oral Health Training,
- Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment,
- Preventing Burnout in the Health Workforce,
- Primary Care Medicine,
- Public Health and Preventive Medicine,
- Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS), and
- Workforce Information and Analysis.

Again, we urge you to include \$980 million for these programs, which guide current and aspiring health professionals to high-demand careers across the United States, including in areas of greatest need. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

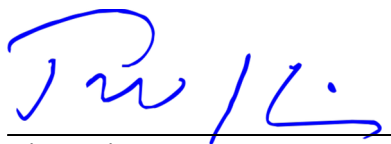
Sincerely,



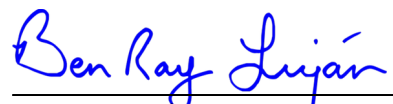
Jack Reed
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



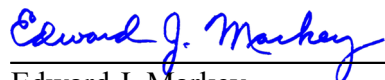
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Ben Ray Lujan
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Tina Smith
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Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Peter Welch
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Lisa Blunt Rochester
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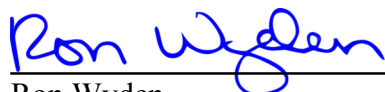
Richard Blumenthal
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Mark Kelly
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Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



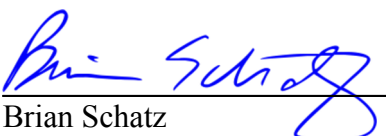
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Andy Kim
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