

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 25, 2022

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

The Honorable Roy Blunt
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 Murray and Ranking Member Blunt:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 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 needs of special and underserved populations, and increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

The Title VII programs have helped our country in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic despite the new challenges the pandemic posed for grantees. Many Title VII grantees pivoted their curricula to train our health workforce to mitigate COVID-19 and encountered unexpected costs, such as providing personal protective equipment for in-person training or switching to a virtual learning experience. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need to increase and continuously reshape our health workforce. The Title VII programs have proven successful in recruiting, training, and supporting public health practitioners, geriatricians, mental health providers, and other frontline health care workers critical to addressing COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also laid bare the pervasive health inequities facing minority communities, as well as 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 2045, our population will grow by over 18 percent, more than half the country will come from a racial or ethnic minority group, and one in five Americans will be over the age of 65. Further, HRSA projects that 122 million Americans already live in Health Professions Shortage Areas. The Title VII programs train providers to serve these ever-growing populations, preparing our workforce for future demands. A diverse health care workforce improves access to care, patient satisfaction, and the learning and training environment. For example, studies show that Title VII programs such as the Health Careers Opportunity Program lead to increases in the number of underrepresented students enrolling in health professions schools, heightening awareness of factors contributing to health disparities and attracting health professionals more likely to treat underrepresented patients.

In addition, Title VII grantees continue providing support for a wide range of other public health concerns, such as chronic care management for seniors and education and training in Alzheimer's

disease. These programs also work to address the mental health gaps in our nation's health care system by developing and training the next generation of behavioral health providers and social workers, who are addressing the opioid epidemic and patients living with substance use disorder.

At a time when the country is facing 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),
- 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,
- Medical Student Education grants,
- 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, 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 \$980 million for these programs in FY 2023. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



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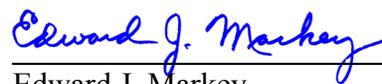
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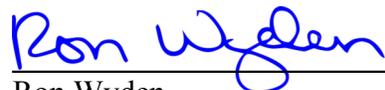
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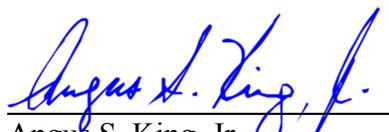
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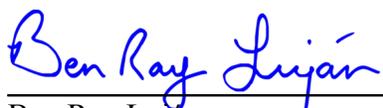
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Amy Klobuchar
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