

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to support and invest in the nation's health care workforce by including \$980 million for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) health workforce development programs under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. For decades, these programs have proven successful in shaping the health workforce, especially in rural and other underserved areas.

Our nation's health workforce has carried us through various public health emergencies, despite health professional shortages, provider burnout, and a health system that is over-capacity. We request support for the nation's students and health workforce to ensure we are prepared for the country's evolving health care needs and future unexpected crises.

Health provider shortages have led to significant 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, and one in five Americans will be over the age of 65. Furthermore, HRSA estimates that 99 million Americans currently live in federally designated primary care Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), 70 million live in dental health HPSAs, and 158 million live in mental health HPSAs. At least 17,000 primary care practitioners, 12,000 dental health practitioners, and 8,000 mental health practitioners are needed to serve these areas. The HRSA Title VII Workforce Information and Analysis program helps identify future workforce needs as well the areas of greatest need to help target our resources where they will do the most good.

The HRSA Title VII 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 and lead to increases in the number of students from rural and other underrepresented communities enrolling in health professions schools and training in rural settings, improving the placement and diversity of providers in underserved areas. As the need for more health providers grows, it is crucial to ensure that there are enough faculty to train the future health workforce, but the ability to hire and retain qualified faculty has only become more difficult. HRSA Title VII Faculty Loan Repayment incentivizes skilled providers to mentor the next generation and, in doing so, bolster the health workforce pipeline.


The HRSA Title VII programs complement and reinforce each other by targeting unique health care and workforce gaps for example, by promoting training in interprofessional care across disciplines. The HRSA Title VII programs provide personalized and preventative care that will lead to less costly treatments and poorer health outcomes down the line. In fact, HRSA has tasked grantees with utilizing innovative models of care, such as telehealth to improve patients' access to care and integrating behavioral health services in primary care

settings. It is crucial to continue to support and strengthen our commitment to investing in the HRSA Title VII programs that advance the skills, expertise, and well-being of our health care workforce such as:

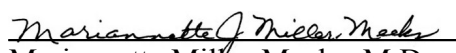
- Area Health Education Centers
- Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training
- Centers of Excellence
- Faculty Loan Repayment
- Geriatrics Training
- Health Careers Opportunity Program
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Medical Student Education
- Oral Health Training
- Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment
- Preventing Burnout in the Health Workforce
- Primary Care Training and Enhancement
- Public Health Loan Repayment
- Public Health and Preventive Medicine
- Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students
- Workforce Information and Analysis

We respectfully urge you to make the nation's next generation of health professionals a priority and to support the needs of our current and future health workforce by making a strong investment in HRSA Title VII programs in the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress

  
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

  
Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress

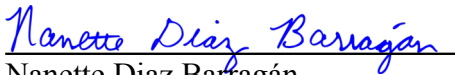
  
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



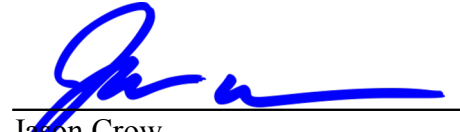
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



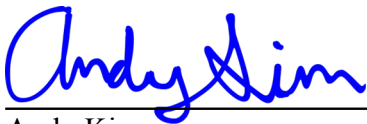
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



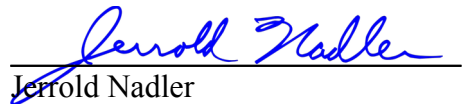
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



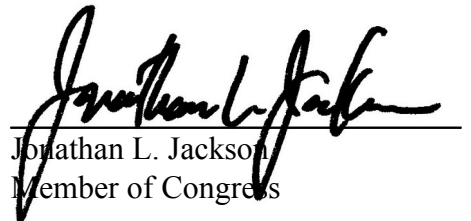
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress

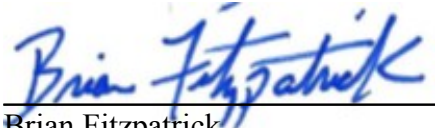


Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress

A stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a large, sweeping 'D' with a vertical stroke through it, followed by a long horizontal flourish.

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Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brian Fitzpatrick' in a cursive, flowing script.

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Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress