

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

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 2025 (FY25) 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 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 74 million Americans already live in federally designated primary care Health Professions Shortage Areas (HPSAs), 58 million live in dental health HPSAs, and 122 million live in mental health HPSAs. Approximately 13,000 primary care practitioners, 10,000 dental health practitioners, and 6,000 mental health practitioners are needed to serve these areas. The Title VII Workforce Information and Analysis program helps identify these 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.

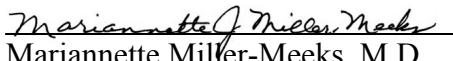
The HRSA Title VII programs complement and reinforce each other by targeting unique health care and workforce gaps for example, by promoting training in interprofessional care across disciplines. The HRSA Title VII programs provide personalized and preventative care that will lead to less costly treatments 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

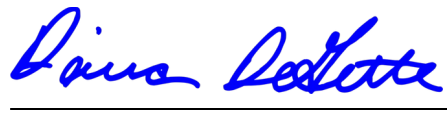
settings. It is crucial to continue to support and strengthen our commitment to investing in the HRSA Title VII programs that advance the skills, expertise, and well-being of our health care workforce such as:

- 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

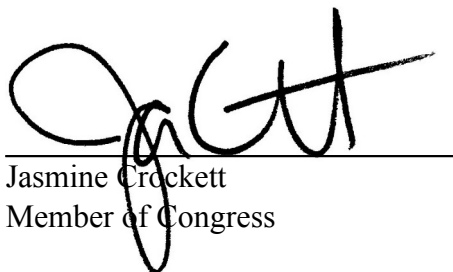
These education and training programs guide current and aspiring health professionals to high-demand careers in areas of greatest need. We greatly appreciate your support for these programs to ensure that the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce continue to improve, 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 FY25. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

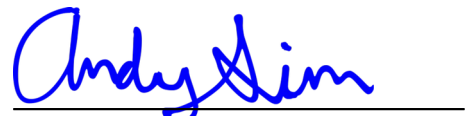
Sincerely,


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


Diana DeGette
Member of Congress


Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress


Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress

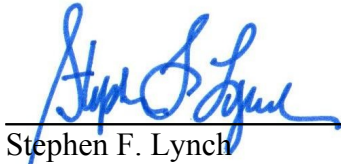

Andy Kim
Member of Congress



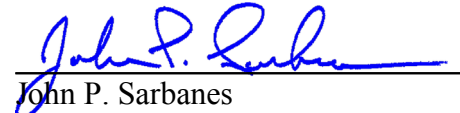
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



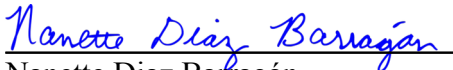
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



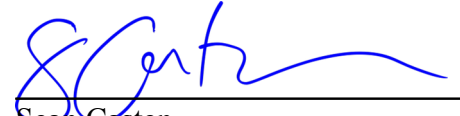
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress




John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



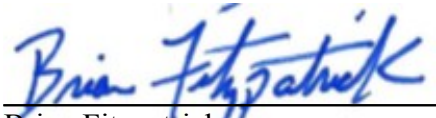
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



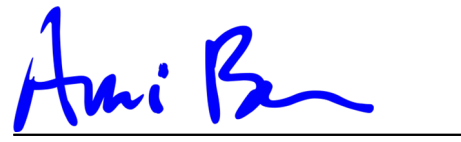
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



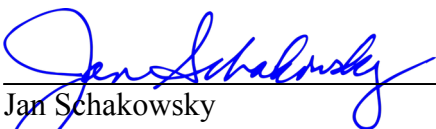
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



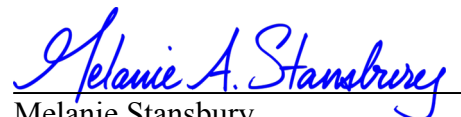
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



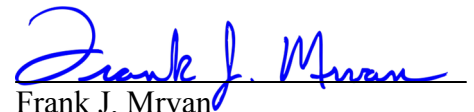
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



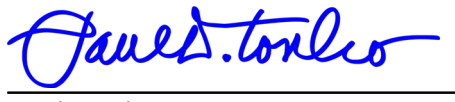
Frank J. Mrvan
Member of Congress




Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress




Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress



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