

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2025

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) 2026 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 77 million Americans already live in federally designated primary care Health Professions Shortage Areas (HPSAs), 60 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. On top of this, HRSA also projects a shortage of over 187,000 full-time equivalent physicians across all specialties in the United States in 2037. 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 Title VII health professions 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. In addition, 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 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:

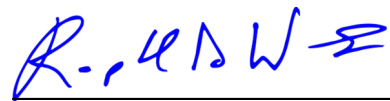
- Area Health Education Centers (AHEC),
- Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training,
- Centers of Excellence (COE),
- Clinical Training in Interprofessional Practice,
- Faculty Loan Repayment,
- Geriatrics Training,
- Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP),
- Mental and Behavioral Health 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.

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 and quality 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 2026. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



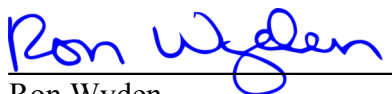
Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



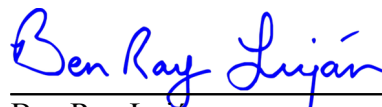
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



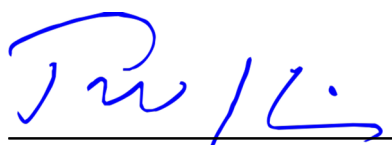
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United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
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Ben Ray Lujan
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Tim Kaine
United States Senator



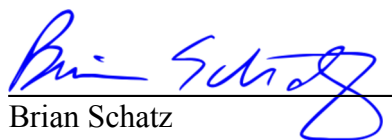
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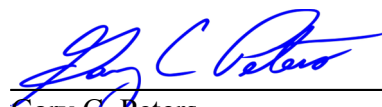
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United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
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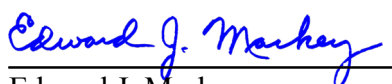
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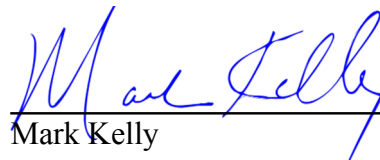
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



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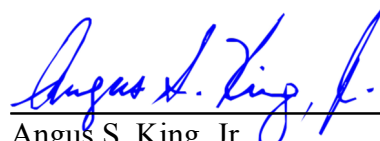
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Mark Kelly
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Mazie K. Hirono
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Angus S. King, Jr.
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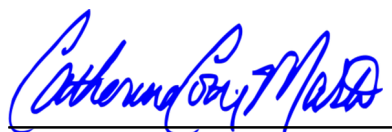
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