

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 23, 2025

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

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

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the fiscal year 2026 (FY26) 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 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 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 13,300 primary care practitioners, 10,100 dental health practitioners, and 6,200 mental health practitioners are needed to address these shortages and ensure access to care for these communities.¹ 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 2037.² The Title VII Workforce Information and Analysis program helps identify these future workforce needs, as well as 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 support the recruitment and training of future physicians in rural areas, facilitate community-based training opportunities, and help to meet and respond to local health needs and improve patients' access to care. As the need for more health providers grows, it is crucial to ensure there are enough faculty to train the future health workforce, but the ability to hire and retain qualified faculty has only become more difficult. The HRSA Title VII Faculty Loan

¹ <https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/shortage-areas>

² <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/bureau-health-workforce/data-research/physicians-projections-factsheet.pdf>

Repayment program incentivizes skilled providers to mentor the next generation and, in doing so, bolsters the health workforce pipeline.

Title VII programs complement and reinforce each other by targeting unique health care and workforce gaps, such as by promoting training in interprofessional care across disciplines. The HRSA Title VII programs also provide personalized and preventative care that will lead to less costly treatments and fewer negative 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 Specialty 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 the distribution and quality of the health professions workforce continue to improve, and 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 FY26. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



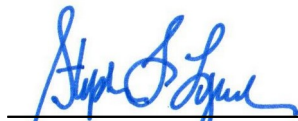
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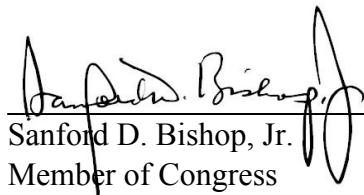
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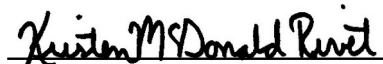
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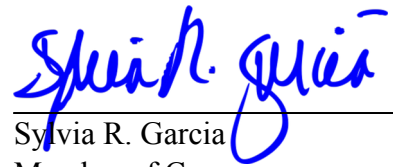
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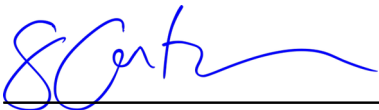
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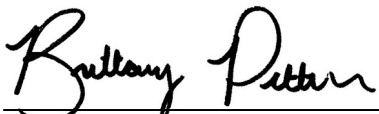
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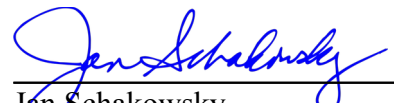
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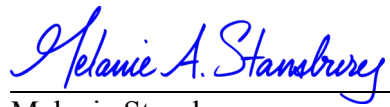
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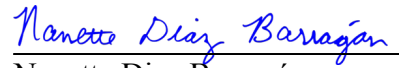
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