

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we write to thank you for the increase in funding for the Title VII health professions education and training programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the FY 2018 Omnibus, and we urge you to provide \$424 million for these programs in FY 2019. 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 a longstanding history of increasing the supply of primary care professionals, expanding access to care in rural and urban underserved areas, and developing a workforce that reflects the nation's diversity and the needs of patients. At a time when the country is facing health provider shortages, it is critical that we continue to support the 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,
- 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,
- Teaching Health Center (THC) Planning Grants, 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 \$424 million for these programs in FY 2019.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed

Michael Blumenfeld

Mazie Hironaka

Anthony Brown

Debbie Stabenow

Tommy Baldwin

Bill Nelson

Brian Schatz

Louie Gohmert

August P. King

Tim Wynn

Tim Van Hollen

Shirley M. Stabenow

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Jon Tustin

Tricia Smith

Elizabeth Ham

Maggie Haran

Dianne Pien's Ten

Walter

Paul Marchant

Heidi Heitkamp

Robert Menendez

Shirley

Deanne Shaker

Kirsten Gillibrand

Bob Carey, Jr.

Tracy

Cheri Coen

Mary F. B. J.

Edward J. Markey

Ron Wyden

B. J. Sanders

J. G. B.

FY19 Title VII Health Professionals funding

Read each pair from the top of the letter from left to right

Reed
Blumenthal

Hirono
Brown

Stabenow
Baldwin

Nelson
Schatz

Peters
King

Murphy
Van Hollen

Harris
Merkley

Tester
Smith

Warren
Hassan

Feinstein
Heinrich

Manchin
Heitkamp

Menendez
Whitehouse

Shaheen
Gillibrand

Casey
Kaine

Coons
Bennet

Markey
Wyden

Sanders
Booker