

March XX, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We urge your consideration of our \$11.136 million request for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Preventive Medicine Residency Program in the FY2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Preventive medicine residency training programs provide a blueprint on how to train our future physician workforce. These physicians are trained to provide for individual patient care needs as well as practice at the community and population level to identify and treat the social determinants of health. Preventive medicine physicians are experts in disease prevention, health promotion, disaster preparedness, quality improvement and patient safety, and lead efforts to integrate primary care and public health. Many preventive medicine physicians have been called upon to ensure the safety of communities most at risk for the opioid epidemic, natural disaster relief, Zika, and in addressing chronic diseases.

Since preventive medicine residents train in community-based settings rather than in the traditional teaching hospital, Medicare and Medicaid do not support the cost of their graduate medical education (GME). HRSA is the source of this support, but has been able to fund at most only 25 of the 75 ACGME-accredited programs based on past appropriations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to support the training of medical professionals who dedicate their careers to disease prevention and health promotion by providing \$11.136 million in FY 2019 funding to HRSA for preventive medicine residency training programs.

Sincerely,