

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2019

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

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

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

We urge your consideration of our \$24 million request for the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Public Health Workforce Development's "Public Health and Preventive Medicine" line item in the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Funding for Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs, the Public Health Training Centers, and Addiction Medicine Training Programs is pivotal to assuring a well-trained public health workforce equipped to address the drivers of healthcare spending, and to advance the research, training, and action necessary to protect and promote health for all our citizens.

The recommended levels of funding for FY 2020 for each program are:

- Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs: \$11,000,000
- Public Health Training Centers: \$11,000,000
- Addiction Medicine Training Programs: \$2,000,000

Funding for Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs supports post-graduate physician training by funding the planning, development, operation, and training of preventive medicine residents in accredited programs. Preventive medicine physicians are uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and public health to promote and maintain health and well-being and reduce the risks of disease, disability, and death in individuals and populations. As preventive medicine residents train in community-based settings rather than traditional teaching hospitals, HRSA is the sole source of federal funding to these programs.

The Public Health Training Centers (PHTCs) Program provides grants to accredited schools of public health to provide graduate or specialized training to frontline public health workers and managers in state, local, territorial, and tribal health departments and other public health-related agencies. Over 51,000 state and local public health jobs have been lost to budget cuts since 2008, or about 19 percent of the workforce. These reductions, emerging disease threats and new scientific discoveries, require public health workers to learn new skills and master new approaches through ongoing training, which PHTCs provide.

Finally, to address the growing burden of the opioid overdose epidemic, we urge new, specified funding to Addiction Medicine Training Programs that train addiction medicine professionals at preventive medicine residency programs, as the subspecialty of addiction medicine has recently

come under the specialty of preventive medicine. The President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis recognized the need to increase the number of actively practicing certified addiction specialist physicians in its final report, and this new, specified funding would help meet that need.

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 \$24 million in FY 2020 funding to HRSA for the "Public Health and Preventive Medicine" line item.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Don Young  
Member of Congress



Susan Davis  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



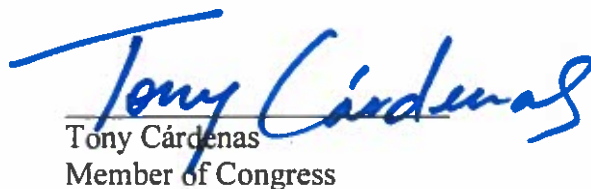
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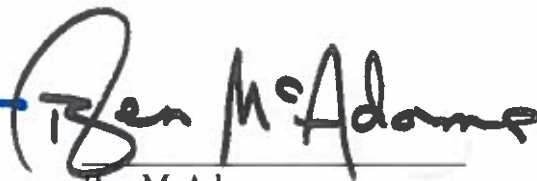
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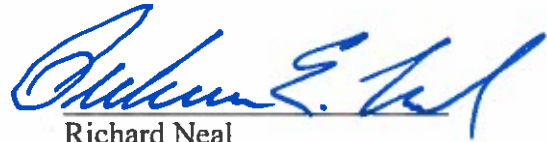
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Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
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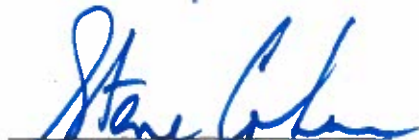
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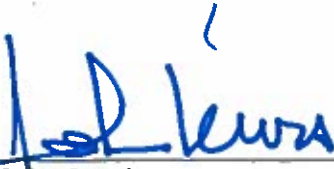




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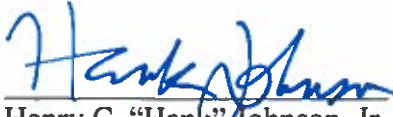
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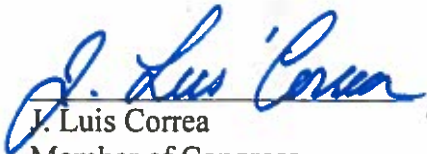
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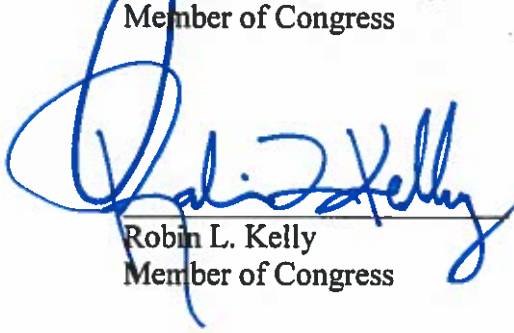
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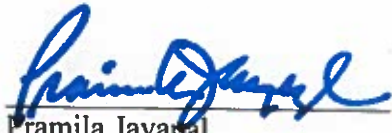
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