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

March 28, 2019

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

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Ben McAdams
Member of Congress
Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress

Harley Rouda  
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Richard Neal
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress
Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Scott Peters
Member of Congress

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress
David Trone
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Eliot Engel
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress
John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress

Tranx Mill Jayapal
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress