

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
136 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee of Labor-HHS-Education  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

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

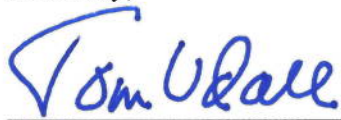
Funding for Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs supports post-graduate physician training by funding the planning, development, operation, and training of preventive medicine residents in accredited programs. Preventive medicine physicians are uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and 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.

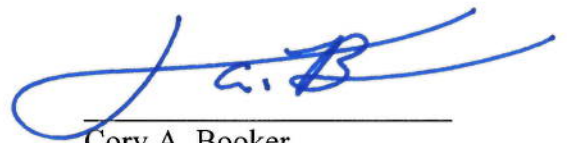
Finally, to address the growing burden of the opioid overdose epidemic, we urge new, specified funding to Addiction Medicine Training Programs that train addiction medicine professionals at preventive medicine residency programs, as the subspecialty of addiction medicine has recently come under the specialty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



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



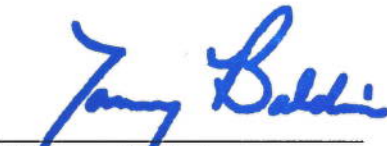
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator



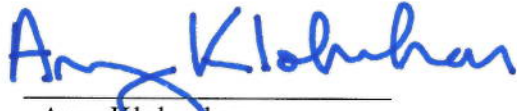
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



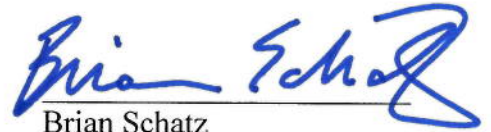
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



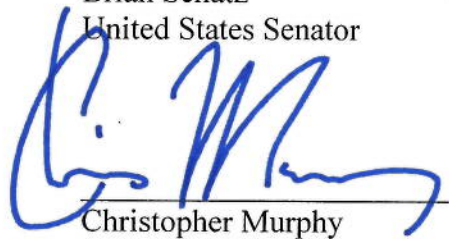
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



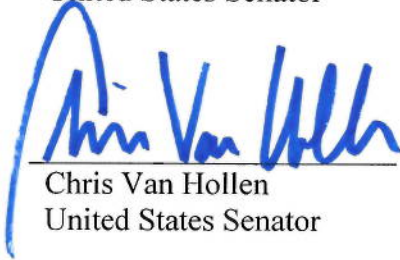
Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



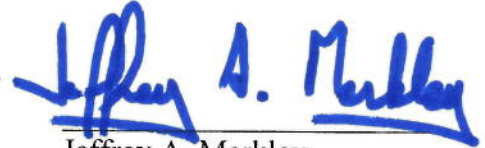
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



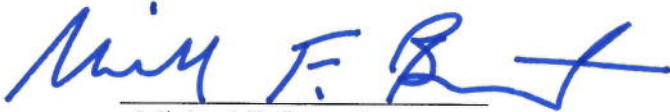
Christopher Murphy  
United States Senator



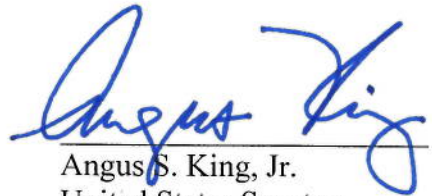
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



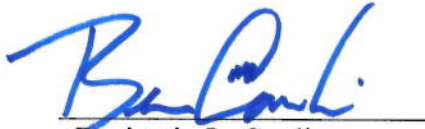
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Tom Carper  
United States Senator



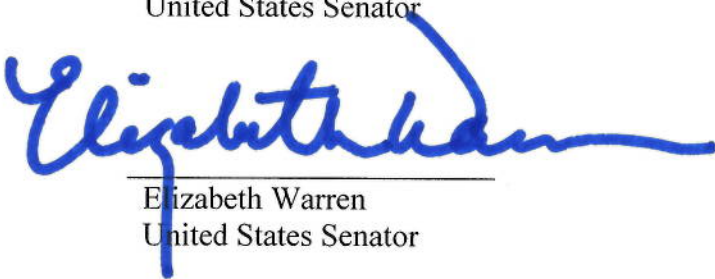
Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



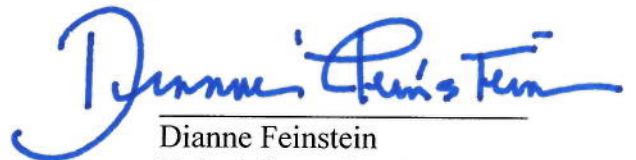
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator