

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2012

Representative Denny Rehberg
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the fiscal year FY 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, we urge you to support the Title VII health professions programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) by including \$280 million for these essential programs. As you know, these programs provide direct financial support for health care workforce development and education. In addition, they are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

Since inception, the Title VII programs have helped increase the supply of primary care professionals, have worked to expand access to care in rural and urban underserved areas, and have worked to develop a workforce that reflects the nation's increasing diversity. As of February 2012, a total of 59.3 million people live in primary care health professions shortage areas as defined by HRSA. At a time when the country is facing unprecedented provider shortages, as well as a rapidly growing and aging population, a strong commitment to the Title VII programs is necessary. A study published in the Journal of Rural Health found that up to 83 percent of family medicine residents who went through a program with Title VII funding chose to practice in a medically underserved or health professions shortage designated setting, post-graduation. Sustained support for these programs will 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.

We respectfully urge you to make the nation's next generation of health professionals a priority and provide \$280 million for the Title VII programs in the FY 2013 Labor, Health and

Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



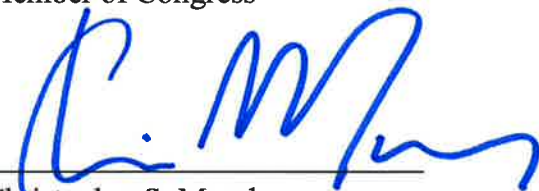
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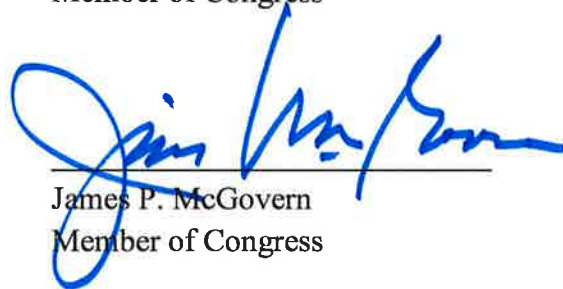
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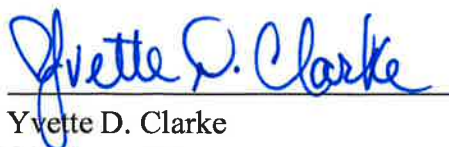
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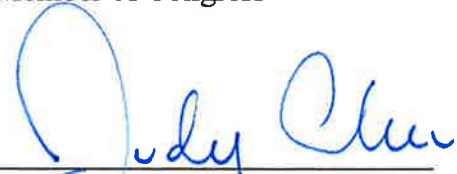
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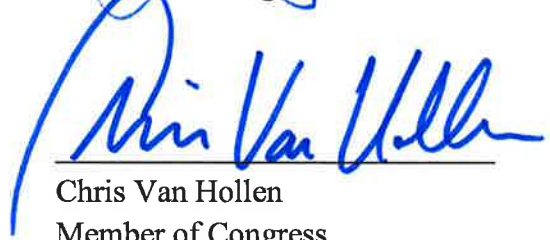
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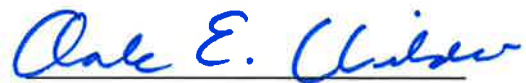
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Chris Van Hollen
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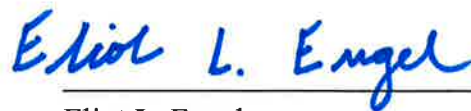
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Dale E. Kildee
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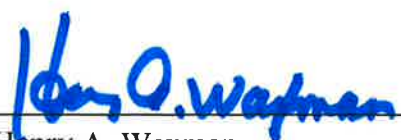
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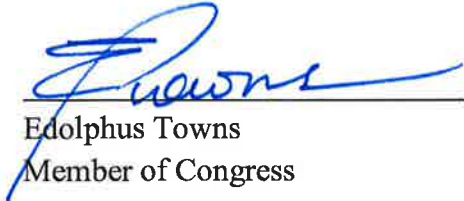
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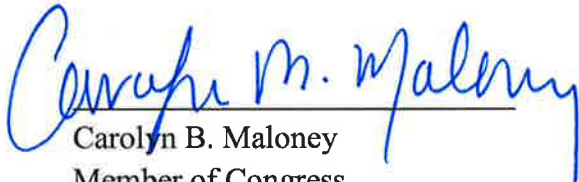
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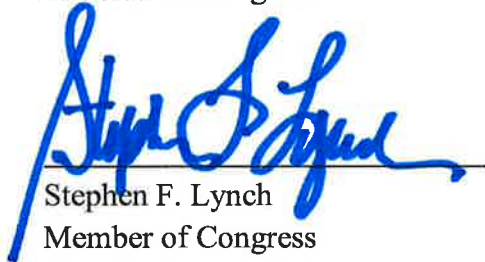
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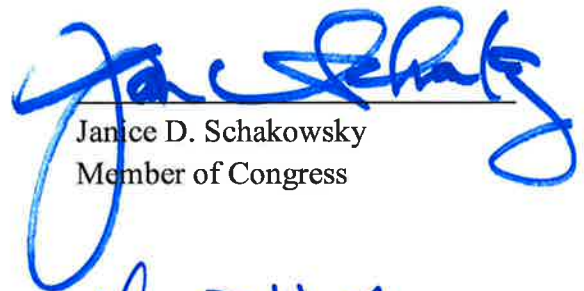
Carolyn B. Maloney
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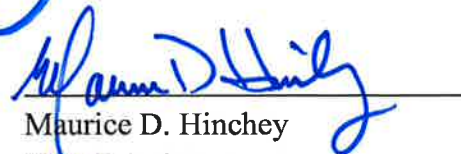
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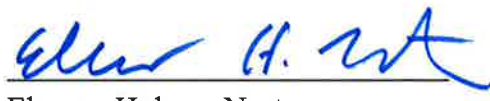
Madeleine Z. Bordallo
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Jackie Speier
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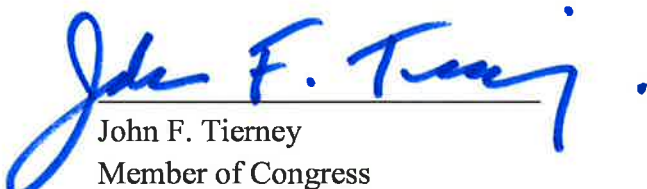

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Karen Bass

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