

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 10, 2011

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Shelby:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to make the nation's health care workforce a priority by supporting the President's FY12 budget request for the Title VII health professions programs under the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

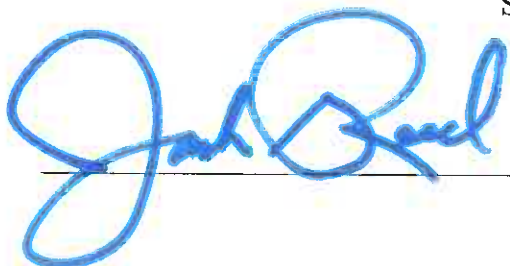
As you know, the Title VII programs provide direct financial support for health care workforce development and education. In addition, they are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce. Through the FY 2012 budget request, HRSA has identified the Title VII health professions programs as a national priority, and we encourage you do to the same.

Since 1963, the Title VII programs have played an essential role in both preparing students for careers in the health professions and bringing health care workers to communities where quality health care is difficult to find. A strong commitment to the Title VII programs would help address our nation's unprecedented provider shortages and our rapidly growing and aging population.

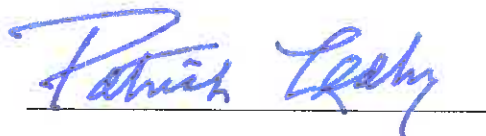
In addition, support for health care workforce education and training programs has a significant economic impact. For example, in 2008, the most recent year in which data is available, medical schools and teaching hospitals, had a combined \$512 billion benefit on the national economy. And each trained primary care doctor, for example, generates \$1.5 million of economic activity.

Helping to fund the education and training of health professions would improve patient care, foster job creation, and help grow our economy. We respectfully urge you to support the FY 2012 budget request for the Title VII health professions programs in the FY 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your leadership and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin



Richard Shelby

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