

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Ed.
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, & Ed.
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

We urge your consideration of our \$10 million request for HRSA to expand training opportunities for preventive medicine physicians in the FY16 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Preventive medicine residency training programs provide a blueprint on how to train our future physician workforce. Physicians trained to provide for individual patient care needs as well as practice at the community and population level to identify and treat the social determinants of health. Preventive medicine physicians are both experts in disease prevention, health promotion, disaster preparedness, quality improvement and patient safety, and lead efforts to integrate primary care and public health. Had Ebola taken hold here in the United States, preventive medicine physicians would have led the response to prevent further spread of Ebola.

There are currently 72 preventive medicine residency training programs nationally, training a total of 353 residents. Yet, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has accredited 661 residency training slots across all 72 training programs, so additional resources could double the number of preventive medicine residents able to be trained.

This training occurs in community-based settings rather than in the traditional teaching hospital, so Medicare and Medicaid do not support the cost of graduate medical education (GME) for preventive medicine residents. HRSA is the source of this support, but has been able to fund only 10 of the 72 ACGME-accredited programs. After reaching a high of \$9 million in FY10, HRSA funding for preventive medicine residents has decreased to \$7 million in FY15. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) estimates a shortage of 10,000 public health physicians, and recommends increasing preventive medicine residency training in order to graduate an additional 400 residents/year.

The \$2.9 million additional investment over FY15 in our request would fund at least 35 new residents into the preventive medicine training pipeline; a pipeline that prepares physicians to tackle our nations' most serious and pressing public health challenges and strengthens our public health infrastructure.

Thank you for considering this request to further prepare the nation with medical professionals who dedicate their careers to disease prevention and health promotion by providing \$10 million in FY16 funding to HRSA to expand training opportunities in preventive medicine.

Sincerely,

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress

Tim Walz
Member of Congress

Scott Peters
Member of Congress

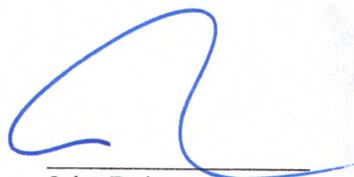
Susan Davis
Member of Congress

Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

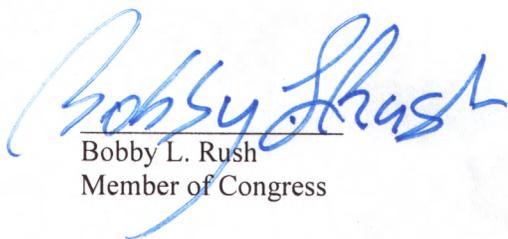
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



John Delaney
Member of Congress



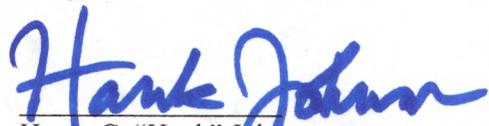
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



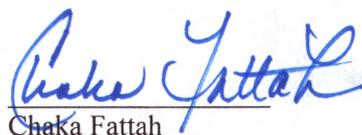
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



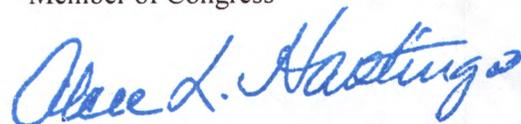
Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



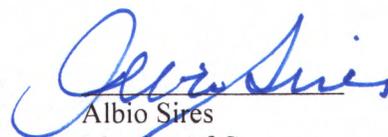
G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



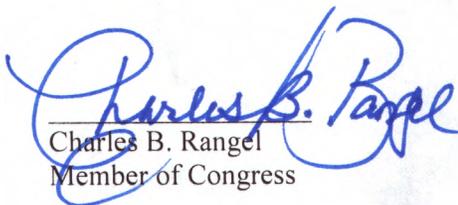
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



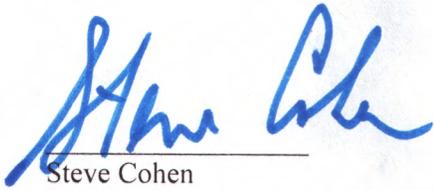
Albio Sires
Member of Congress



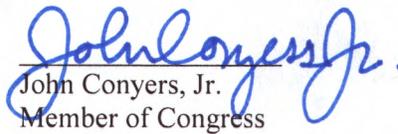
Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



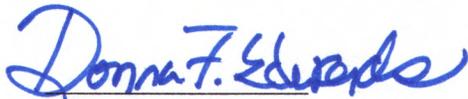
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



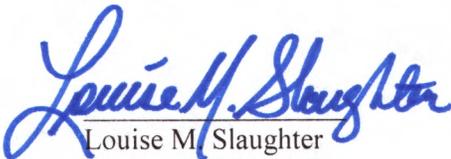
Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee
Member of Congress