

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 5, 2018

Dr. George Sigounas, MS, Ph.D.  
Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Administrator Sigounas:

As you know, Congress recently reauthorized the Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education Program (THCGME) through the end of Fiscal Year 2019 at double the prior annual appropriations level in the Bipartisan Budget Act (P.L. 115-123). Accordingly, we are writing to stress the importance of allocating the newly appropriated funds expeditiously and in an amount that will sustain training at existing Teaching Health Centers (THCs) as congressionally intended.

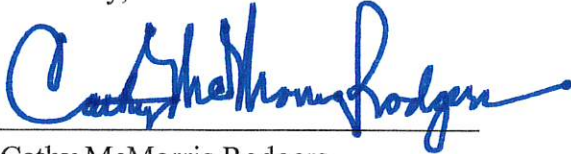
In addition to providing \$126.5 million a year for two fiscal years, the statute also directs HRSA to take into account the cost of training of residents and the impact of the per resident allocation on THC programs. One of the main factors in establishing the final funding level in this reauthorization was a study commissioned by your agency in 2016 and conducted by a third party research institution which found the true average cost of training residents in the THCGME program to be an estimated \$157,000 per year. We also understand that HRSA requested and received results of a survey of THCs earlier this month that reflected a national average cost of roughly \$161,000 with 84 percent of the centers reporting thus far. We firmly believe that the THCs need a sustainable per resident allocation or there will be additional program terminations and cessation of recruiting of new residents.

Additionally, the new statute refers to "filled positions," reflecting congressional intent to ensure that HRSA does not divide the new resources by the total number of authorized positions (over 900) when it is clear in the midst of an academic year that those positions will not all be filled. Further, when we reauthorized THCGME for two fiscal years, we did not intend for HRSA to use the funds to cover three full academic years, which would substantially reduce the annual per resident allocation and prevent program growth.

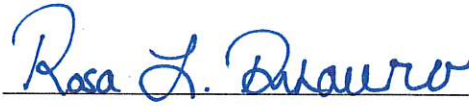
We appreciate your immediate attention to this important matter, and look forward to collaborating with you as HRSA implements the new program requirements, including plans to

expand the program using a portion of the new available funds. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Megan Perez ([megan.perez@mail.house.gov](mailto:megan.perez@mail.house.gov)) in Chairwoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers' office.

Sincerely,



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



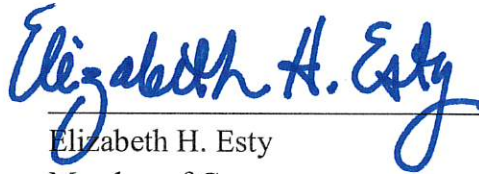
Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham  
Member of Congress



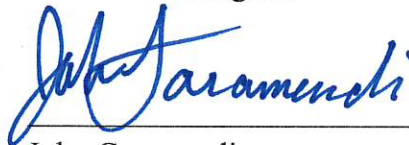
Susan W. Brooks  
Member of Congress



Elizabeth H. Esty  
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Steve Cohen  
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



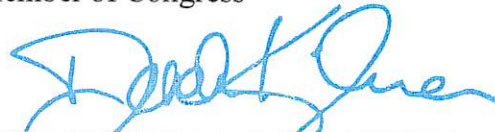
Paul Cook  
Member of Congress



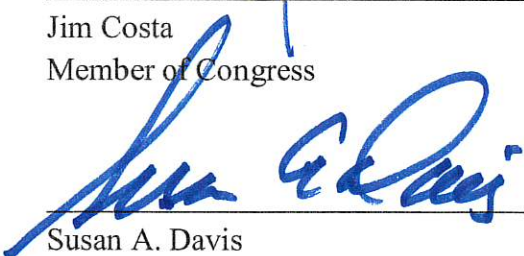
Raul Grijalva  
Member of Congress




Jim Costa  
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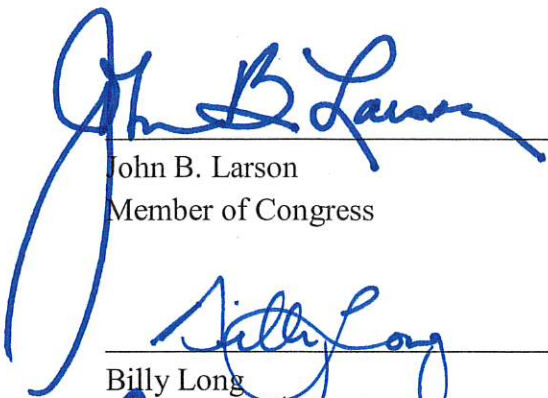
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



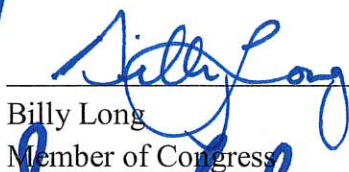
Susan A. Davis  
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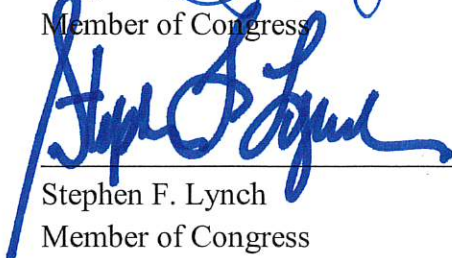
Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



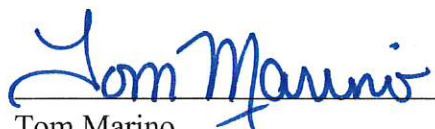
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



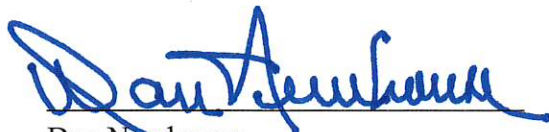
Billy Long  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



Tom Marino  
Member of Congress



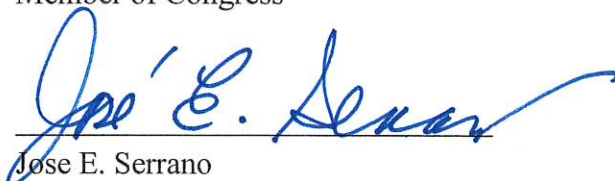
Dan Newhouse  
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Scott Peters  
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Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress



Jose E. Serrano  
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Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas  
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