

**LOU BARLETTA**

11TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

**TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
COMMITTEE****HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE****Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives**

2049 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515-3811

TOLL-FREE (855) 241-5144  
(202) 225-6511

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**DISTRICT OFFICES**1 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, SUITE 100  
HAZLETON, PA 18201  
(570) 751-0050 PHONE106 ARCH STREET  
SUNBURY, PA 17801  
(570) 988-7801 PHONE126 NORTH HANOVER STREET  
CARLISLE, PA 17013  
(717) 249-0190 PHONE4813 JONESTOWN ROAD, SUITE 101  
HARRISBURG, PA 17109  
(717) 525-7002 PHONE

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Chairman Frelinghuysen:

I write to you today to express my strong support for the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program, and to ask that you to act to reauthorize this program before the January 31, 2018 match requirement deadline.

I appreciate the efforts by both House leadership and appropriators to provide an additional \$60 million for the THCGME program in the December 2017 Continuing Resolution. However, it has come to my attention that these programs are now facing an unintended consequence for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18). As you may be aware, the THCGME Program has a January 31 match requirement, meaning THC's will need to have funding certainty for FY18 by that date. Without this information, they will be unable to hire new medical residents for the July 1 academic year. This could lead to layoffs or complete shutdowns of THC's.

As a member whose district is served by a THC – the Wright Center in Scranton, PA – I know firsthand how devastating it would be if this program were not reauthorized before the recruitment window closes. Across the country, the THCGME Program supports the training of 732 residents in 57 primary care residency programs in 24 states. This program has a demonstrated track record of success. Based on the most recent data available, 90 percent of THC graduates are practicing primary care, and 76 percent are doing so in highly vulnerable areas where they are most needed.

The THCGME program has strong bipartisan and bicameral support, and was always expected to be connected to funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which was included in the House passed CHAMPION Act. Given the current uncertainty surrounding the path forward for CHIP funding, I would like to request that a two-year reauthorization of the THCGME Program be included as an anomaly in any upcoming CR so that THC's may continue their focus on much-needed medical residents and the patients they serve.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Legislative Assistant, Kevin O'Keefe, at 202-225-6511 or [Kevin.OKeefe@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kevin.OKeefe@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lou Barletta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress