The Honorable Robert Aderholt

Chair

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin

Chair

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations

United States Senate

Washington, DC 205150

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro

Ranking Member

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Subcommittee

United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Baldwin, Chair Aderholt, Ranking Member Moore Capito and Ranking Member DeLauro

The undersigned public health organizations and academic institutions urge your consideration of an appropriation of $67,000,000 for the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Public Health Workforce Development’s “Public Health and Preventive Medicine” line item in the Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The recommended levels of funding for FY 2024 for each program are:

* Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs: $52,000,000
* Public Health Training Centers: $15,000,000

Preventive Medicine Residency Programs and the Public Health Training Centers continue to be pivotal to assuring a well-trained public health workforce equipped to address chronic health conditions, infectious disease, addiction medicine and natural disaster relief, as well as the many issues related to addressing the population health needs of marginalized rural and urban communities which protects and promotes the health of all our citizens.

Funding for Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programssupports post-graduate physician training by funding the planning, development, operation, and training of preventive medicine residents in accredited programs. Preventive medicine physicians are uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and public health in order to promote and maintain health and well-being and reduce the risks of disease, disability, and death in individuals and populations. The increased funding for the Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs would fully fund all non-military/uniformed services Public Health and General Preventive Medicine residencies – 40 accredited preventive medicine residency training programs, which includes 347 approved residency slots who specifically conduct rotations in public health departments. Current funding levels support the training of only 174 residents nationwide. Efforts to train additional preventive medicine physicians will provide multiplicative benefits to reducing the ongoing health professional shortage.

In addition to critical residency funding, this funding line also supports 10 Regional Public Health Training Centers (RPHTCs), located at top universities throughout the United States. These Centers bring decades of experience in building the leadership, managerial, scientific, and technical skills of the public health workforce. Lessons from the pandemic have revealed the critical need for a consistently robust and well-trained public health workforce capable of responding to future public health emergencies, as well as addressing ongoing community health disparities. The RPHTCs are well suited to address these needs yet they require sustained and increased funding.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to support the training of medical professional specifically in population health who dedicate their career to disease prevention and health promotion for all communities by providing $67,000,000 in FY 2024 funding to HRSA for the “Public Health and Preventive Medicine” line item.

Sincerely,

The American College of Preventive Medicine

Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health

Association of Public Health Laboratories

Association for Prevention Teaching and Research

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Boston Medical Center

Loma Linda University Health

Maine Medical Center

National Network of Public Health Institutes

Public Health Accreditation Board

Prisma Health – University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Rutgers School of Public Health

San Diego State University School of Public Health

Stony Brook University

School of Medicine and Public Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Southern Nevada Health District

Trust for America's Health

UCSD/SDSU General Preventive Medicine Residency Program

University of Maryland School of Medicine

University of Rochester Medical Center