

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 29, 2012

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Shelby:

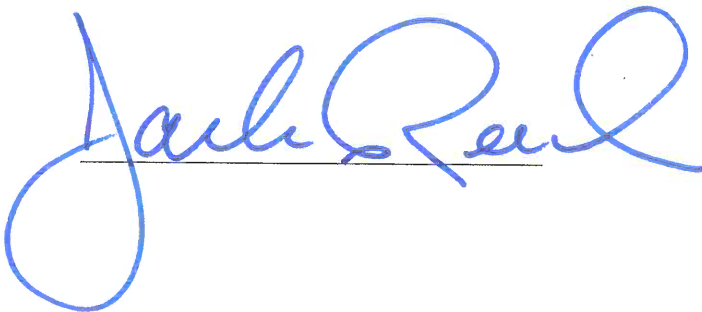
As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, we urge you to provide \$280 million for the Title VII health professions programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration. These programs support health care workforce development and education, train providers in interdisciplinary settings to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, and increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

The Title VII programs continue to help increase the supply of primary care professionals, expand access to care in rural and urban underserved areas, and develop a workforce that reflects the nation's diversity. At a time when the country is facing health provider shortages, as well as a rapidly growing and aging population, a strong commitment to these programs is critical. Indeed, sustained support for these programs will ensure that the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce continue to improve, and that the workforce is prepared to meet the country's evolving and emerging health care needs.

In addition, support for health care workforce education and training programs helps guide students and aspiring professionals to high-demand careers. According to a January 2012 report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the health care and social assistance industry is expected to be the most rapidly growing sector in terms of employment through 2020. Title VII programs prepare individuals to fill these vacancies, helping to fulfill both the individual's career goals and a community's health needs. As such, we urge you to include \$280 million for these programs in FY13.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack Reed".A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shelby".

Tom Udare

Brian Broy

Patrick Leahy

Charles Sch

Paul Beyer

Daniel K. Deaka

Al Franken

Herb Kohl

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Kay R. Hagan

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