

Voices of Support

Training the Next Generation of Primary Care Doctors Act of 2017

“The Teaching Health Center GME program has demonstrated that addressing the shortage of primary care physicians, especially for traditionally underserved rural and urban areas, is not only essential but also achievable. The leadership of Representatives McMorris Rodgers and Tsongas in sponsoring the continued funding and potential expansion of this program is a critical action in assuring the continuing training for the 742 medical residents now engaged in programs across the country and in attracting new programs to this vital initiative. While this Nation spends more than \$15 Billion on graduate medical education annually, the THCGME program is our only opportunity to target the output of physicians by specialty and locality. Those of us leading THCGME programs applaud the bipartisan leadership of our Congressional representatives and are committed to continuing to build the country’s desperately needed primary care workforce.” - **Neil S. Calman MD, MMS, FAAFP, President, American Association of Teaching Health Centers and President and CEP, the Institute for Family Health**

“The Training the Next Generation of Primary Care Doctors Act of 2017 will go a long way towards every community health center’s goal of providing access to comprehensive primary care for every individual in need. **The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)** applauds Reps. McMorris Rodgers and Tsongas for introducing this legislation and for their firm commitment to bolstering the health center workforce.”

"The Council of Academic Family Medicine was involved with the creation of the Teaching Health Center (THC) program statute and has supported the continuation of this vital program. We applaud the efforts of Reps. McMorris Rodgers and Tsongas in introducing legislation to reauthorize and support the sustainability of this critical primary care workforce program." - **Mary Hall, MD, Chair, Council of Academic Family Medicine**

“Our nation is in the middle of a devastating shortage of primary care providers, including ob-gyns. In fact, half of all US counties have no ob-gyns at all, leaving women with severely limited access to obstetric and gynecologic care,” **says Haywood Brown, M.D., President, The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.** “We commend Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers for recognizing and taking practical steps to address this urgent need, and improve access to quality health care for women in rural and underserved areas.”

“The innovative Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program, which trains medical residents in primary care community-based settings, has a strong track record of improving the distribution of physicians in underserved areas across the country. We thank Representatives McMorris Rodgers and Tsongas for their bipartisan leadership in sponsoring the Training the Next Generation of Primary Care Doctors Act of 2017. We urge Congress to prioritize support for this critical legislation that works to ensure a robust primary care physician

workforce in communities most in need.” - **Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH, President and CEO of AACOM**

“Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences commends Representative McMorris Rodgers for her notable leadership in envisioning new and innovative mechanisms of funding for critical community-based medical residency programs that will benefit not only the state of Washington, but underserved patient populations across the country,” - **Keith Watson, DO, President, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences**

“The communities on the front-lines in the fight against chronic disease rely on Community Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics to deliver quality care at a lower cost. And there’s no better place than this setting to train the primary care professionals that America needs. This legislation is essential to sustaining the current capacity of the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program and NCHC is pleased to support it.” - **John Rother, President and CEO, National Coalition on Health Care**

“This important legislation will enable Greater Lawrence Family Health Center and its Lawrence Family Medicine Residency Program to continue the great work it has done over the last 23 years. Educating our primary care workforce in low income, underserved communities like Lawrence has proven to be a winning combination in training our nation’s most needed clinicians in the areas of community and family medicine. The Lawrence Family Medicine Program has trained 175 family physicians, and more than 79% of whom continue to work in underserved communities and 55% have continued to work in community health centers across the country. Speaking for the first community health center-sponsored residency program in the country, I commend the efforts of Representatives McMorris Rodgers and Tsongas in introducing this legislation. Their continued efforts to support sustainable funding for this program are critical to the long-term survival of the THC program.” - **Joseph Gravel, MD, Chair of Family Medicine & Community Health/ Chief Medical Officer of the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center**

“The Teaching Health Center program is a proven program that trains doctors to practice holistic primary care for rural and underserved populations. By training physicians in underserved communities, they learn the skills and gain the experience and confidence that allow them to successfully serve rural communities for the long term when they finish their residency.” - **National Rural Health Association**