

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

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you and your colleagues begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you fund the National Health Service Corps at least at the FY2019 level of \$120 million. We greatly appreciate the Committee's work to date in support of the NHSC, and look forward to working with you to further strengthen this important program.


As you know, the NHSC has proven to be a successful, sustainable solution to our nation's health provider shortages, having placed more than 50,000 primary care professionals in underserved communities since its inception in 1972. Today, the NHSC has a field strength of nearly 11,000 clinicians who provide care to 11 million people across the country. The NHSC's Loan Repayment Program, Scholarship Program, Students-to-Service program and state Loan Repayment Program have all expanded access to care and enabled thousands of health care clinicians to put their skills to use where it is needed most. In addition to providing care during their NHSC placement, most continue to serve in their community after their commitment has ended. The NHSC has proven to be an effective recruitment AND retention tool for underserved communities, and we greatly appreciate the Committee's work expanding this program to additional communities and provider types.

Starting in FY2018 and continuing in FY2019, the NHSC received \$105 million to expand to substance use disorder counselors, which are desperately needed as our nation confronts the opioid epidemic. In addition, in FY2019, the NHSC received an additional \$15 million to expand placements within Indian Health Service facilities. Both of these funding streams helped strengthen primary care delivery in communities of high need across the country and we strongly support the continuation of the full \$120 million in your FY2020 bill.

Thank you for your longstanding support for the National Health Service Corps program, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the NHSC can at least continue its current efforts in FY2020.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

  
G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

Janie Raski  
MD-08

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OR-04

IN-07

Jenni Sewell  
AL-07

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CA-06

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