



March 29, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health &
Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge that you fully fund programs in the Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) “Public Health and Preventive Medicine” line item in Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) at the level of \$24 million. Funding for the Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs and the Public Health Training Centers is pivotal to assuring a well-trained public health workforce equipped to address social determinants, other drivers of health care spending, and to advance the research, training, and action necessary to protect and promote health for all our citizens.

The recommended levels of funding for FY 2020 for each program are:

- Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs: \$11,000,000
- Public Health Training Centers: \$11,000,000
- Addiction Medicine Training Programs: \$2,000,000

Funding for Preventive Medicine Residency Training Programs supports 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 to promote and maintain health and well-being and reduce the risks of disease, disability, and death in individuals and populations. As preventive medicine residents train in community-based settings rather than traditional teaching hospitals, HRSA is the sole source of federal funding to these programs.

The Public Health Training Centers (PHTCs) Program provides grants to accredited schools of public health to provide graduate or specialized training to frontline public health workers and managers in state, local, territorial, and tribal health departments and other public health-related agencies. Over 51,000 state and local public health jobs have been lost to budget cuts since 2008, or about 19 percent of the workforce. These reductions, emerging disease threats and new scientific discoveries, require

public health workers to learn new skills and master new approaches through ongoing training, which PHTCs provide.

Finally, to address the growing burden of the opioid overdose epidemic, we urge new, specified funding to Addiction Medicine Training Programs that train addiction medicine professionals at preventive medicine residency programs, as the subspecialty of addiction medicine has recently come under the specialty of preventive medicine. The President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis recognized the need to increase the number of actively practicing certified addiction specialist physicians in its final report, and this new, specified funding would help meet that need.

With the rise in chronic diseases and the public health crises such as the opioid epidemic that always loom on the horizon, it is time to expand – not shrink – the training of physicians and other public health workers in disease prevention and health promotion.

Sincerely,

A New PATH

Aerospace Medical Association

American Association on Health and Disability

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

American College of Preventive Medicine

American Medical Student Association

American Public Health Association

American Society on Addiction Medicine

Association for Prevention Teaching and Research

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Lakeshore Foundation

National Association for Behavioral Healthcare

National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Network of Public Health Institutes

Student Coalition on Addiction

Treatment Communities of America

Trust for America's Health

Young People in Recovery