

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McCarthy, McConnell, and Schumer:

As supporters of the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program, we write today to urge you to include a long-term reauthorization and increased funding for this key program in the end of year package currently under negotiation.

Given the vital role THCs play in training the next generation of primary care physicians, with residents handling an estimated one million patient visits annually in both rural and urban underserved communities, it is essential that we provide reliable funding to ensure stability for this program. The THCGME program responds to the crisis-level shortage of primary care physicians by delivering doctors to communities where they are needed most. Over the past 9 months, the COVID-19 pandemic has only made clearer the importance of increasing the physician workforce in underserved communities that have been hit particularly hard by the virus. Without long-term stability, it has been and will continue to be extraordinarily difficult for the more than 50 THCs across the country to recruit and operate effectively, as their funding is in constant uncertainty.

There are bipartisan reauthorization bills that have been introduced in the House and Senate (H.R. 2815 and S. 1191) which would provide long-term stability for the program, and include funding levels that accommodate: (1) a realistic increase in the per resident allocation for the more than 700 medical residents and (2) establishment of additional sites for an expansion of THC programs. These two changes will do much to expand and protect this important program. The House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) both reported four and five-year reauthorizations, respectively, of THCGME favorably more than a year ago, demonstrating strong bipartisan support for this program. We urge you to provide increased funding and long-term support to this

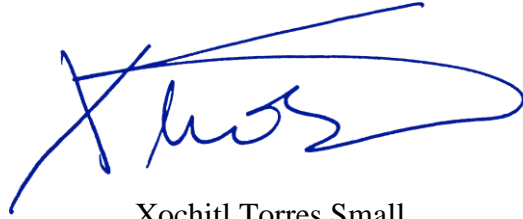
essential program, so that we can ensure our most underserved communities have access to the care they need.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Xochitl Torres Small
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress




Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress

Billy Long
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

/s/

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Fred Keller
Member of Congress

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

