October 26, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Democratic Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the Alliance to Strengthen America's Health Workforce for the Underserved, we urge Congress to prioritize policies that expand, strengthen, and sustain the health workforce serving rural and underserved communities as you consider legislation before the end of the 119th Congress.

The Alliance brings together national health care organizations committed to addressing workforce shortages in communities where access to care is most limited. Our shared priorities focus on strengthening proven programs, supporting clinicians, and building pathways for future health professionals.

As Congress works to address discretionary federal funding before December 11, and with mandatory funding for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Community Health Center Fund (CHCF) approaching expiration on December 31, we urge Congress to act on the following priorities:

1. **Extend and strengthen the NHSC through a multi-year commitment.** NHSC scholarships and loan repayment programs have repeatedly been proven to help recruit primary care, dental, and behavioral health clinicians to communities with the greatest need.
2. **Extend and strengthen the CHCF through a multi-year commitment.** Community health centers need reliable funding to plan services and continue caring for patients in communities across the country.
3. **Reauthorize and provide strong funding for Title VII Health Professions and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs.** These programs support education and training pathways that prepare clinicians to serve rural and underserved communities.

These investments work together. Health centers need the resources to serve patients, while NHSC and Title VII and VIII programs help them recruit, train, and retain the workforce to do so. Short-term solutions bring continued challenges to workforce planning and leave communities facing renewed uncertainty.

Patients need dependable access to care, and communities need a dependable federal commitment to the workforce that provides it. We urge Congress to secure multi-year funding for the CHCF and NHSC before December 31 and advance Title VII and VIII reauthorization and funding as part of its year-end work.

Thank you for your consideration. The Alliance stands ready to serve as a resource and share the perspectives of clinicians and organizations serving rural and underserved communities.

Sincerely,

Alliance to Strengthen America's Health Workforce for the Underserved