



MEMORANDUM

To: Subcommittee on Health Members and Staff
From: Committee on Energy and Commerce Majority Staff
Re: Health Subcommittee Hearing on April 19, 2023

The Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. (ET) in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building. The hearing is entitled “Examining Existing Federal Programs to Build a Stronger Health Workforce and Improve Primary Care.”

I. Witnesses

- **Carole Johnson**, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

II. Background

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) administers or helps support several primary care and health workforce programs, as well as oversees organ donation in the United States. Some of these programs include Community Health Centers (also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers or FQHC’s), the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program (THCGME), and the National Health Service Corps (NHSC).¹²

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, HRSA is funded at \$9.5 billion in discretionary appropriations and oversight over 4.8 billion in mandatory funding.³

Community Health Centers are required to provide primary health care services to medically underserved populations in the community.⁴ The Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education program supports community based primary care medical and dental residency programs.⁵ The National Service Corps supports primary care and dental providers through scholarships and loan repayment programs.⁶

² Public Health Service Act, Title III, Section 372.

³ <https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budget-justification-fy2024.pdf>

⁴ Public Health Service Act, Title III, Section 330.

⁵ Public Health Service Act, Title III, Section 340H.

⁶ Public Health Service Act, Title III, Subpart II.

There is projected to be a shortage of 17,210 primary care physician full-time equivalents (FTE) and a 20 percent decrease of behavioral health workers by 2030.⁷ These shortages are projected to be particularly burdensome for rural areas and other underserved communities, as these areas are continually impacted by a maldistribution of health care workers.⁸

III. Legislation Being Considered

H.R. 2559, the Strengthening Community Care Act of 2023

H.R. 2559, the “Strengthening Community Care Act of 2023” authored by Rep. John Joyce (R-PA), Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY), and Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX) would extend funding for the Community Health Center Fund and National Health Service Corps for five years.

H.R._____, to extend funding for the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program

H.R.____, would extend funding for the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program for three years.

H.R. 2569, the Doctors of Community or the DOC Act

H.R. 2569, the “DOC Act”, authored by Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) would make the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program permanent and increase its funding to \$582.7 million by FY33.

H.R. 2547, Special Diabetes Program for Indians Reauthorization Act of 2023

H.R. 2547, the “Special Diabetes Program for Indians Reauthorization Act of 2023” authored by Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) and Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA) would extend funding for the Special Diabetes for Indians program for five years.

H.R. 2550, Special Diabetes Program Reauthorization Act of 2023

H.R. 2550, the “Special Diabetes Program Reauthorization Act of 2023” authored by Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) would extend funding for the Special Diabetes Program for five years.

H.R. 2544, the Securing the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act

⁷ “Implementation of the Health Workforce Strategic Plan,” U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, pg 15. 2022.

⁸ Ibid.

H.R. 2544, the “Securing the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Act” authored by Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN) and Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL) would amend section 372 of the Public Health Service Act to allow for additional flexibilities within the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN).

H.R. 2411, the National Nursing Workforce Center Act of 2023

H.R. 2411, the “National Nursing Workforce Center Act of 2023” authored by Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE) and Rep. Young Kim (R-CA) would authorize the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to carry out a pilot program to establish new or enhance existing State-based nursing workforce centers. The legislation also allows for a technical assistance center through a competitive grant process.

H.R.____, to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Covered Countermeasure Process Fund

H.R.____, would require the Secretary to make reasonable efforts to inform the public about the availability of the Fund, require the Secretary to release the covered countermeasure injury table within 180 days after making a declaration under 319F-3(b), and provide rationale for denied claims.

IV. Staff Contacts

If you have questions regarding this hearing, please contact Kristin Flukey of the Committee staff at 202-225-3641.