



May X, 2026

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
Chair  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,  
and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,  
and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cassidy and Ranking Member Sanders:

On behalf of the Alliance to Strengthen America's Health Workforce for the Underserved (the Alliance), we write to respectfully request that the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) expeditiously consider and advance the bipartisan reauthorizations of the Public Health Service Act Title VII Health Professions and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs.

Specifically, we urge you to advance the bipartisan S. 1874, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 and S. 4110, the EMPOWER for Health Act.

The Alliance is a national coalition of health care stakeholders committed to advancing practical, evidence-based policies that address health workforce challenges in rural and underserved communities. The Alliance is uniquely focused on strengthening the clinician workforce in the communities with the greatest needs.

The Title VII Health Professions and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs are foundational components of a healthcare strategy that improves access to care by supporting education pathways, professional development, and workforce needs. These programs help prepare physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, physician assistants, primary care and pediatric clinicians, dentists, geriatrics professionals, mental and behavioral health providers, public health practitioners, and other members of today's team-based care models—many of whom go on to practice in rural and other medically underserved communities.

Reauthorization of Title VII Health Professions and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs aligns with the Alliance's core policy goals, including:

- **Expanding the healthcare workforce in underserved communities** by supporting federal programs that place skilled clinicians in high-need rural, urban, suburban, and frontier areas.
- **Strengthening recruitment and retention**, including through complementary efforts that expand loan repayment, scholarship, faculty, and other educational and training opportunities in high-need areas.
- **Elevating accountability and transparency** so federal workforce investments are measured against outcomes and aligned with community needs.

At a time when communities across the nation face persistent workforce shortages and growing strain on the health care system, Congress can provide stability and continuity for education and training by reauthorizing these proven programs and advancing the bipartisan and bicameral S. 1874, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2025 and also S. 4110, the EMPOWER for Health Act. Doing so is a responsible, forward-looking step to help ensure patients have access to timely, high-quality care, particularly in communities that too often face barriers.

Thank you for your consideration. The Alliance stands ready to serve as a resource to the Committee as you consider reauthorization of Title VII Health Professions and Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs.

Sincerely,