

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 29, 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-131, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-131, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
Senate Dirksen Building, 131
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
Senate Dirksen Building, 156
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chairman Harkin, and Ranking Member Shelby:

As the Committee begins its consideration of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2013, I request support for the following programs:

Program Title: Health Centers Program**Amount Requested:** Support President's Budget Request, \$3,130,000,000**Agency, Account:** Health Resources and Services Administration, Primary Care**Description:** Support the President's Fiscal Year 2013 budget request of \$3.1 billion in funding for the Health Centers Program, in addition to \$1.5 billion of mandatory funding provided through the Affordable Care Act Community Health Center Fund.**Program Title:** National Health Service Corps**Amount Requested:** Support President's Budget, \$300,000,000.**Agency, Account:** Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Workforce**Description:** Support President's FY 2013 Budget request of \$300 million for National Health Service Corps, in addition to \$295 million in mandatory funding

provided through the Affordable Care Act, to increase and improve the distribution of health providers.

Program Title: State Offices of Rural Health

Amount Requested: Support President's Budget, \$10,000,000

Agency, Account: Health Resources and Services Administration, Rural Health

Description: To support state offices of rural health in playing a key role in assisting rural health clinics, community health centers, and small, rural hospitals in assessing community health care needs.

Program Title: Area Health Education Centers

President's Budget Request FY13: \$0

Amount Requested: +\$27 million above the President's Budget

Agency, Account: Health Resources and Services Administration, Rural Health

Description: To address health care workforce shortages, particularly those in primary care. To support the recruitment and retention of local physicians, students, faculty and other primary care providers in rural and medically underserved areas by providing local, community-based, interdisciplinary primary care training.

Program Title: Alaska Native Student Education

Amount Requested: Support President's Budget, \$33,185,000

Agency, Account: Education Improvement Programs

Description: Recognizes the unique educational needs of Alaska Natives and supports the development of culturally relevant, supplemental educational programs to serve a high-needs population.

Program Title: Investing in Innovation

Amount Requested: Support President's Budget, \$150,000,000

Report Language Requested: The Committee recommends the Department include a 25% set-aside for rural applicants, as follows:

(1) The grantee is—

(A) a local educational agency with an urban-centric district locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43, as determined by the Secretary;(B) a consortium of such local educational agencies; or(C) an educational service agency or a nonprofit organization with demonstrated expertise in serving students from rural areas.

(2) A majority of the schools to be served by the project are designated with a school locale code of 41, 42, or 43, or a combination of such codes, as determined by the Secretary.

Agency, Account: Office of Innovation and Improvement

Description: Supports school districts, groups of schools, educational service agencies, and community organizations efforts to improve student achievement,

increase high school graduation rates and improve college enrollment and completion.

Program Title: Family Nurse Practitioner Demonstration

President's Budget Request FY13: \$0

Amount Requested: +\$10 million

Agency, Account: Health Resources and Services Administration, Sec. 5316, P.L. 111-148.

Description: To train qualified nurse practitioners as primary care providers in federally qualified health centers and nurse-managed health centers and to create a training model to be replicated nationwide.

Program Title: Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program (EHCY)

Amount Requested: \$70 million

Agency: Department of Education

Agency Account: School Improvement

Description: The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program removes barriers to homeless student enrollment, attendance, and success in elementary and secondary education. Local school districts use EHCY funds for outreach and identification, enrollment assistance, transportation assistance, school records transfer, immunization referrals, tutoring, counseling, school supplies, assessment, professional development for educators, and referrals for community services.

Program Title: Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Programs

Amount Requested: \$140 million

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services

Agency Account: Children and Families Services Programs (Administration for Children and Families)

Description: Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) programs provide critical outreach, shelter, and transitional living resources to the nation's unaccompanied homeless youth.

Program Title: Rural Health Outreach Grants

Presidents Budget Request: \$56,025,000

Amount Requested: Support Presidents Budget

Agency, Account: Health Services Administration (HRSA), Rural Health Outreach Grants

Description: In response to the growing needs for emergency care in rural America, specifically in frontier areas, Congress authorized the FESC Demonstration through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ("CMS")

at the Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) and HRSA RHO grants assist organizations participating in FESC. FESC allows remote clinics to treat patients for more extended periods, including overnight stays, and prevents the need for many costly medical evacuations operations to distant hospitals. FESC is a Medicare payment classification pertaining to (1) emergency treatment of patients staying in the clinic for over four hours when transporting them to a hospital is not possible, and (2) short-term (up to 48 hours) monitoring and observation of patients in cases where an EMS transfer or a hospital emergency room visit or stay is unnecessary. Additionally, a FESC only may be located in a community that is at least 75 miles from the nearest acute care hospital or critical access hospital, or that is inaccessible by public road.

Report Language Requested: The Committee encourages HRSA to continue its support of “Frontier Extended Stay Clinic” providers who provide expanded services in remote and isolated primary care clinics to meet the needs of seriously ill or injured patients who cannot be transferred quickly to acute care referral centers, and to meet the needs of patients who require monitoring and observation for a limited time.”

Program Title: Title III: Aid for Institutional Development

President’s Budget Request: \$80,600,000

Amount Requested: Support President’s Budget

Agency, Account: Department of Education, Higher Education Programs

Description: Title III Aid for Institutional Development helps fund rural campuses that directly serve students in over 160 primarily Alaska Native communities across two-thirds of the state of Alaska. These funds help develop student services/financial aid personnel, village-based, face-to-face student services, and distance education. Title III funds also provide for the development of new courses and programs, and for the modification of courses or course delivery for culturally appropriate curriculum and delivery techniques.

Program Title: TRIO Program

President’s Budget Request: \$267,900,000

Amount Requested: Support President’s Budget

Agency, Account: Department of Education, Higher Education Programs

Description: The Federal TRIO Programs are Federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRIO includes eight programs targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to postbaccalaureate programs.

Senators Inouye, Cochran, Harkin and Shelby
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If you have any questions, please contact Cory Turner on my staff at (202) 224-7309.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Begich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Begich" clearly distinguishable.

Mark Begich
United States Senator