



April 14, 2009

The Honorable Bill Pascrell
U.S. House of Representatives
2464 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Moran
U.S. House of Representatives
2202 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Carolyn Kilpatrick
2264 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Pascrell, Moran & Kilpatrick:

On behalf of Trust for America's Health, a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority, I would like to thank you for introducing the Health Workforce Investment Act of 2009 (H.R. 1946), which would enhance health workforce data collection, coordinate workforce programs and improve the supply, diversity and distribution of the health workforce.

As you know, from physicians to pharmacists to public health professionals, we are facing critical shortages in the health workforce. Especially as we examine options for expanding access to care through health reform, it is critical that we have a well-trained and robust health workforce. To build toward this goal, we need to regularly collect data on the composition of the workforce and to coordinate federal and state programs. With that in mind, we fully support your bill, which would establish the National Center for Health Workforce Information and Analysis to regularly collect health workforce statistics, and would create a National Health Workforce Advisory Council to make Federal policy recommendations. We are particularly pleased that the Council includes representation from a broad sector of the health field, including public health professionals, as well as partners from other branches of government, including from the Departments of Labor and Education. A comprehensive, coordinated approach to addressing workforce shortages is necessary, and this legislation encompasses such an approach.

Your legislation also recognizes the important role of the states in revitalizing the health workforce. The health workforce investment grants would allow for State-specific health workforce goals and objectives and require collaboration from key players in order to support a broad array of workforce development activities, ranging from pipeline development to career ladders to loan repayment programs. All of these activities are necessary components of an investment in a well-trained, sustainable health workforce.

Again, I want to commend your leadership and thank you for introducing this very important bill. TFAH looks forward to working with you on this and other important initiatives in the future. If

you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Richard Hamburg, our Director of Government Relations, at (202) 223-9876 or Daniella Gratale at (202) 223-9870 x 28.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Levi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "L".

Jeffrey Levi, PhD
Executive Director