

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 26, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Leahy:

As you consider a final appropriations package for Fiscal Year 2020, we respectfully request strong support for graduate medical education programs. During House consideration of the FY2020 Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we cosponsored an amendment to increase investments in graduate medical education that passed the House with over 360 Members supporting it.

Our districts are both home to medical schools, which are struggling to place their students in the slots necessary to complete their education. Increasing our investment in graduate medical education positions will increase hospitals' capability to hire more doctors, and ensure all Americans have access to health care. At a time when so many Americans are struggling to access the necessary healthcare services, this investment is more important than ever before.

Doctor shortages are continuing to affect communities across the nation. Despite an increase in medical school enrollment in recent years, there has been no commensurate increase in residency slots to ensure that medical school graduates are able to begin their careers. Unfortunately, there is a doctor shortage across our country. This is not because students are choosing not to pursue a career in medicine, but due to a lack of funding for residencies. By increasing our nationwide investment in opportunities after graduation, we will expand our doctor pipeline. Where these students complete their residencies is where they are most likely to begin their practice, which is why this amendment will help keep residents in currently-underserved communities. This is a particular problem for rural and underserved communities that have historically struggled to attract medical talent.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working with you to strengthen investments in medical residencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susie Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susie" and the last name "Lee" written in a connected but distinguishable style.

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Susie Lee  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katie Porter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katie" and the last name "Porter" written in a connected but distinguishable style.

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Katie Porter  
Member of Congress