



Investing in Our Nation's Health Care Workforce

Currently, 65 million Americans live in communities where they cannot easily access a primary care provider, and an additional 16,500 practitioners are required to meet their needs. The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* and the *Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act* address shortages in primary care and other providers by making necessary investments in our nation's health care workforce.

Invests in the National Health Service Corps

- ✓ Increases funding for the National Health Service Corps, a program which provides scholarships and loan repayments to encourage primary care providers to practice in underserved areas.

Reauthorizes and Improves Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs

- ✓ Invests in and improves upon grants, scholarship, and loan repayment programs in fields such as primary care, dentistry, pediatrics, nursing, and mental health.
- ✓ Expands loan repayments to nursing faculty to address the educational bottleneck contributing to our current nursing shortage.
- ✓ Reauthorizes and expands geriatric education programs to focus on caring for our aging population.

Increases Workforce Diversity

- ✓ Invests in programs to improve the diversity of our nation's workforce, including Centers of Excellence and targeted scholarship and loan repayment programs.
- ✓ Twice as many Latino, African American and Native American graduating medical students report intentions to practice in underserved communities compared to Whites, but they only comprise six percent of practicing physicians.

Develops Workforce Planning and Analysis

- ✓ Establishes a national workforce commission to gather information on the health care workforce and better coordinate and implement workforce planning and analysis, which is necessary in order to meet the health care needs of our nation.
- ✓ Authorizes a new competitive state health care workforce development grant program to support comprehensive planning and activities leading to coherent and comprehensive health care workforce development strategies at the state and local levels.

Incentivize Primary Care and Practice in Underserved Areas

- ✓ Provides payment bonuses for primary care services in Medicare and Medicaid. Provides payment bonuses for general surgery services provided in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).
- ✓ One of the reasons that providers are less likely to choose primary care is the lower salary compared to specialty fields.
- ✓ Establishes a re-distribution policy under Medicare to encourage more training of primary care providers and authorizes new resources for primary care training at teaching health centers.