

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education &
Related Agencies
U.S. House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education &
Related Agencies
U.S. House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

As you write the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2023, we encourage you to provide increased funding for the Addiction Medicine Fellowship (AMF) Program. The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) crisis is among the most pressing public health and safety challenges facing Americans today, and as lawmakers we must work to ensure access to comprehensive and evidence-based SUD treatment and services.

Treating the 41.1 million Americans who need treatment for a SUD will require more education and training that is too often lacking in our nation's current medical workforce. While there are shortfalls at all levels, one of the most serious is among addiction medicine fellowships accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medication Education (ACGME). As of March 2022, there were only 86 ACGME-accredited addiction medicine fellowship programs in the nation – far below the recommended goal of 125 fellowships by 2022 set by the President's Commission on Combating Drug Abuse and the Opioid Epidemic five years ago. Furthermore, according to a recent survey by Shatterproof of health care professionals in Massachusetts, only 1 in 4 received training about addiction during medical education, and many surveyed providers believed—incorrectly—that opioid use disorder cannot be treated at all.¹ There are too few physicians with the requisite knowledge and training to prevent, diagnose, and treat addiction.

Addiction medicine and addiction psychiatric fellowships are critical to ensuring that adults and adolescents have access to SUD treatment. These fellowships provide advanced training

¹ <https://www.shatterproof.org/press/shatterproof-rize-massachusetts-and-ge-foundation-release-survey-massachusetts-healthcare> (Shatterproof, 2019)

opportunities to a wide range of specialists, including those in family medicine, internal medicine, psychiatry, and emergency medicine. In February, the Stanford-Lancet Commission on the North American Opioid Crisis recommended that expanding the number of such fellowships is critical to meeting the enormous need for addiction treatment.²

The AMF Program provides fellowships to train addiction medicine physicians and addiction psychiatrists who work in underserved, community-based settings that integrate primary care with mental health disorder and SUD prevention and treatment services. AMF is one of the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training programs within the Health Resources and Services Administration.

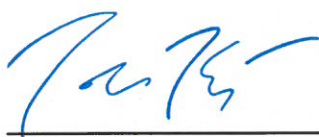
In FY22, Congress funded the AMF Program as one component of the Mental and Substance Use Disorder Workforce Training Demonstration Program. However, we urge you to designate funding specifically for the AMF program, as recommended in the President's FY23 budget request, and provide at least \$25 million in FY23.

We recognize the difficult task you face in balancing the many needs of our nation in the Fiscal Year 2023 Labor-HHS appropriations bill, and we appreciate your consideration of this request.

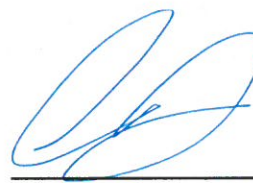
Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



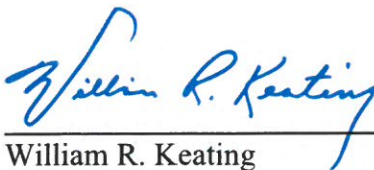
John Katko
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress

² <http://www.thelancet-press.com/embargo/OpioidCommission.pdf> (The Lancet Commissions, 2022)



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Conor Lamb
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress