<div align="center">

Committee on Energy and Commerce

Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery
of
Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member Anna Eshoo

Hearing on **"Examining Existing Federal Programs to Build a Stronger Health Workforce and Improve Primary Care"**

April 19, 2023

</div>

Good morning, Administrator Johnson, and welcome back to the Health Subcommittee.

Thank you for your superb leadership at the helm of the Health Resources and Services Administration overseeing more than 90 programs that improve the health and well-being of all Americans.

You head up the agency with grantmaking and it's the dispersal of those funds in HHS that really makes the policies dance, so thank you.

Today, the Subcommittee will consider eight bills to extend critical public health programs, bolster the health workforce, and address the broken organ transplant system.

We will hear testimony about five health programs that expire on September 30th:
- Community Health Centers that are really core operations in our Congressional Districts;
- National Health Service Corps;
- The Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program;
- The Special Diabetes Program; and
- The Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

First, we're considering a bipartisan bill to extend mandatory funding for Community Health Centers and the National Health Service Corps for five years.

The Community Health Center Fund provides support to nearly 14,000 Health Center locations across our country. These Health Centers provide primary care to one in every 11 Americans – we cannot do without them – including one in five Californians, regardless of their ability to pay.

A Community Health Center in my District, the Asian Americans for Community Involvement Health Center, provides a full spectrum of care through a multilingual team of doctors, nurses, and patient navigators. They've earned a superb reputation for the care they give people in the community. At this Health Center, the team can speak more than 40 languages to ensure their services are responsive to cultural beliefs, practices, and preferred languages.

The National Health Service Corps is a highly effective program that's been connecting providers to patients in need for over five decades.

I'm disappointed that funding for these programs is not adjusted for inflation despite the clear need, but I support the bipartisan reauthorization.

We're also considering programs to improve access to primary care, and we have to stay on this since that's the entrance to the entire health care system in our country, including the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program and the Special Diabetes Programs.

The THCGME Program supports a viable primary care workforce for low-income communities by providing, as we spoke about on the phone, residency training at federally qualified Health Centers.

The Affordable Care Act enabled Teaching Health Centers to train residents. Thirteen years later, these Centers have proven they can successfully train residents who will build their practices in rural and underserved urban communities. A giant bravo on this because it really is working.

But funding for this program remains elusive and inconsistent, preventing it from reaching its potential. I support the legislation we're considering today to permanently authorize the THCGME Program and fund new training sites to increase resident physician spots, and I believe this Subcommittee can get to a bipartisan agreement on this reauthorization.

Other expiring programs include the Special Diabetes Program and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians which provide critical investments in research and care for those living with diabetes.

I have more to say and I'll say it as we move through this hearing today as my time is almost up.

But I want to thank you for your leadership and I want to thank you also for sending out to each one of us information on HRSA in our Congressional District because this really brings it home about what HRSA is doing, the grantmaking, and the difference it is making in the lives of our constituents.