

07/13/2021

Energy & Commerce Member Day:

Talking Points for Medical School Legislation

- If we're going to discuss ways to improve our nation's infrastructure for the benefit of all Americans, we must think beyond roads and bridges;
- Access to transportation, broadband, education, and clean drinking water are also important issues that must be addressed...
- But there is another critical need that requires equal and immediate attention: access to quality health care.
- The United States is expected to face a shortfall of primary care providers in the next 15 years;
- Rural and low-income communities are expected to feel the brunt of that shortfall;
- Rural communities have long suffered from a lack of quality medical care and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the problem;
- Doctor Shortages are known to reduce access to medical care by imposing longer wait times and causing people to travel further to see specialists;
- My bill, ***The Expanding Medical Education Act*** will help curb the shortfall of physicians by establishing medical training programs in areas of high need;
- The ***Expanding Medical Education Act*** will provide \$1 billion dollars in funding for medical school construction, expansion and

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doctor training in these underserved communities;

- Priorities in funding will be given to educational institutions that focus on diverse and medically deprived communities;
- My district in California's San Joaquin Valley is one such district that is in dire need of more health care professionals;
- Having medical schools in these areas will allow local students who want to stay and work in those communities to complete their studies there as well;
- Growing our own doctors is the only way to confront this medical crisis;
- This legislation is gaining momentum with a full endorsement from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC);
- By stressing that rural communities will continue to suffer without immediate action, the CHC is urging leadership to include my bill in negotiations with the White House on its infrastructure plan;
- For 40 years I have supported building a medical school in my home in the Central Valley, and I will keep fighting until we make it happen.