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January 25, 2019

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Special Committee on Aging
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bob Casey
Ranking Member
Special Committee on Aging
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Collins and Ranking Member Casey:

On behalf of the HRSA Title VII and Title VIII funded Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Programs (GWEPs) across the country, thank you for your past support of geriatric education and for introducing the *Geriatrics Workforce Improvement Act*. The National Association for Geriatric Education (NAGE) is pleased to offer our support for the *Geriatrics Workforce Improvement Act*, which will reauthorize the GWEP and once again make the Geriatrics Academic Career Award program (GACA) a part of the effort to prepare the geriatrics workforce for the aging of our population. We and the growing numbers of older adults, caregivers, and clinicians caring for elders will urge Congress to move quickly to pass your bill and provide the resources to address our nation's growing demand for geriatric care.

We appreciate the many discussions that your staff facilitated with NAGE, as well as with the Eldercare Workforce Alliance, the American Geriatrics Society, and The Gerontological Society of America during the process of developing this legislation. This authorization and related funding are needed for the development of a health care workforce specifically trained to care for older adults and to support their family caregivers. Currently there are only 44 GWEP sites in 29 states. The modest increase in the authorization in your bill will have an important impact on training in geriatric care. Likewise, the funds you have authorized for the GACA program complement the GWEP, and support faculty that will teach and lead geriatrics programs. The bill will also assist in ensuring that rural and underserved areas will have geriatrics education programs.

NAGE is a non-profit membership organization representing GWEP sites, Centers on Aging, and Geriatric Education Centers that provide education and training to health professionals in the areas of geriatrics and gerontology. Our mission is to help America's healthcare workforce be better prepared to render age-appropriate care to today's older Americans and those of tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued support for geriatric education programs.

Sincerely,



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