

The Providing Resources and Opportunities for Health Education and Learning (PRO-HEAL) Act would:

- Authorize the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Administrator to award grants to enable states and institutions of higher education to expand or create health care provider pipeline programs.
- Make \$215 million dollars in grants available to eligible entities for 5 years.
- Prioritize grants for programs that are intended to:
 - \rightarrow Serve underserved or rural communities
 - \rightarrow Increase the number of health care professionals who are primary care providers
 - \rightarrow Focus on recruiting students from the state where the program is based.

The PRO-HEAL Act is inspired by the success of the <u>Combined BA/MD Degree Program</u> <u>at the University of New Mexico</u>, where over 65% of students who have graduated from their program practice medicine in New Mexico. This legislation aims to address the shortage of health care workers by fostering a group of students committed to practicing medicine in their own communities. This grant program supports students in their journey from undergraduate studies to higher education in health care, offering various support mechanisms such as scholarships and personalized academic advising.

<u>Data from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)</u> predicts that the U.S. will face a significant shortage of medical providers, with an estimated shortage of up to 139,000 physicians by 2033.



If left unaddressed, this gap will affect Americans ability to access health care services, especially in areas where medical resources are currently limited.

To cosponsor this legislation, please contact

claire wengrod@heinrich.senate.gov and

wasem gawish@heinrich.senate.gov.

This map of the U.S. highlights states currently offering combined provider pipeline programs.