Project Name:
Training new physician assistants to foster rural development

Recipient:
Carroll College

Address:
1601 North Benton Avenue, Helena, MT 59625

Amount Required:
$4,000,000

Project Description: One of the challenges rural areas face for economic development is reliable access to health care and medical professionals. Additionally, a rural clinic or hospital often serves as the economic anchor for rural counties. Nearly every county in Montana is fully designated as a Primary Health Professions Shortage area by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and many of Montana's rural counties do not have a physician. In these counties, physician assistants (PAs) are regularly the most-highly trained medical professional in the county. Carroll College would use this funding to establish educational classroom and lab spaces for a new PA Program to address the healthcare workforce shortage in the western region, specifically targeting training for rural PAs. Currently, Montana has only one PA program statewide, and Carroll College 's program would provide another 34 seats per year beginning with the first cohort in fall 2025.

RYAN K. ZINKE
1ST DISTRICT, MONTANA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2601

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Rural Physician Assistant Program Building Project

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Rural Physician Assistant Program Building Project, Community Project Funding in Fiscal Year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Carroll College, located at 1601 N. Benton Ave, Helena, MT 59625.

The funding would be used to establish educational classroom and lab spaces for a new PA Program to address the healthcare workforce shortage in the western region, specifically targeting training for rural PAs. Currently, Montana has only one PA program statewide, and Carroll College's program would provide another 34 seats per year beginning with the first cohort in fall 2025. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because one of the challenges rural areas face for economic development is reliable access to health care and medical professionals. Additionally, a rural clinic or hospital often serves as the economic anchor for rural counties. Nearly every county in Montana is fully designated as a Primary Health Professions Shortage area by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, and many of Montana's rural counties do not have a physician. In these counties, physician assistants (PAs) are regularly the most-highly trained medical professional in the county.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

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Sincerely,

Ryan K. Zinke

Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress