



PA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
655 K Street NW, Ste. 700, Washington, DC 20001
PAEAonline.org • 703-548-5538

March 3, 2023

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
512 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Zinke:

On behalf of the PA Education Association (PAEA), the national organization representing all 300 accredited PA programs in the United States, we are writing in support of community project funding to promote the development of a new PA program at Carroll College in Helena, Montana.

Throughout the history of the profession, PAs have played a critical role in expanding access to care in medically underserved communities, particularly in rural and frontier areas. One of the most effective ways of continuing this tradition of rural practice among graduates is establishing programs to train students from and in these communities. While it is well-established that this is an effective workforce distribution strategy, Montana currently only has one PA program to help meet the state's significant demand for providers.

The funding request for Carroll College would support the infrastructure needs of the institution's developing PA program, equipping faculty to prepare 34 new providers in the state with each graduating cohort. Given the alignment of this project with PAEA's vision of

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Health for All, the Association strongly supports the request and its inclusion in fiscal year 2024 appropriations legislation.

We appreciate your support of this request and look forward to serving as a resource to your office. Should you have specific questions or if you would like additional information, please contact Senior Director of Government Relations Tyler Smith at 703-667-4356 or tsmith@PAEAonline.org.

Sincerely,

Linda Sekhon

Linda Sekhon, DHSc, PA-C
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara F. Fletcher".

Sara Fletcher, PhD
Chief Executive Officer