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August 16, 2010

Lois L. Bready, MD
UTHSCSA
7703 Floyd Curl Dr.
San Antonio, Texas 78284-7834

Dear Dr. Bready:

Last session, I sponsored House Bill 2154, legislation that revamped Texas' physician loan repayment program (PLRP). Texas faces a well-documented shortage of medical professionals - a shortage exacerbated by a steady population growth and increasing demand for qualified nurses and physicians.

Texas' rural areas are especially in need of primary care physicians, rural areas that have experienced remarkable population spikes in this past decade. By modifying and elevating the profile of the state's PLRP, we hope to attract primary care physicians to underserved areas where doctor-to-patient ratios fail to meet the preferred proportions.

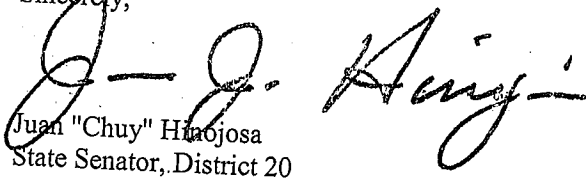
The target for the PLRP's in its first year after the program's restructuring is 200 participants. To date, the Department of State Health Services has awarded 120 spots to eligible applicants. Given the programs enrollment success, we are seeking your assistance in filling the remaining 80 spots in the rolling application process.

The Texas Academy of Family Physicians and the Texas Medical Association are fully engaged in filling the remaining spots in the PLRP for this year. Your support in spreading the word at your institution and encouraging graduating doctors to apply would help us close out this year's target.

Next year, the target will increase and since the State of Texas has committed the resources necessary for the PLRP to be successful, it is important for us to fill each and every spot available. Four-year commitments to the program reimburse \$160,000 in student loan obligations. This type of loan repayment aid can virtually eliminate a new doctor's medical school debt.

I appreciate any assistance you can provide in helping us achieve this year's target. We are working diligently to identify 80 additional doctors who are willing to practice in underserved regions of Texas. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Arturo Ballesteros in my Austin office at 512/463-0120.

Sincerely,


Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa
State Senator, District 20

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