



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

April 18, 2024

The Honorable Harrison Keller
Commissioner
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
1801 Congress Ave
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Commissioner Keller:

Health professionals work tirelessly to meet the public health demands of our growing state and care for their fellow Texans. The training and education of health professionals is essential to adequately address healthcare workforce shortages and improve access to healthcare across our great state. Having qualified instructors and sufficient clinical sites play a critical role to prepare future health professionals to care for the patients they will encounter in their careers. The State of Texas has invested millions in job training grants to help prepare students for high-demand careers, such as nursing, to meet the healthcare needs of our state, but we must do more.

To help address the healthcare workforce shortage, I am directing the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to immediately create a task force to provide opportunities and remove barriers that exist to expand healthcare programs at institutions and provide students with the tools necessary to succeed in this field in Texas. Further, the task force should investigate challenges to establishing and maintaining sufficient clinical rotation sites and clinical placements and identify best practices to attract and retain qualified clinical instructors. The task force shall issue a report by October 1, 2024.

Texas is the fastest growing state in the nation, and it is vital that we continue to expand our healthcare workforce to meet the needs of our citizens as we build a bigger, better Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott
Governor

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