



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

August 8, 2012

Melissa Abdullah, Grants Management Specialist
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Room N-4716
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Ms. Abdullah,

I am writing this letter to voice my support for the Health e-Workforce Consortium's application for funding through the Department of Labor, Education, and Training Administration. The Health e-Workforce Consortium respectfully requests \$11.8 million in order to increase and expand its efforts to meet significant workforce demand in the area of health information technology in Washington and across the country.

The Washington community college consortium (comprised of Bellevue College, Bellingham Technical College, Clark College, Clover Park Technical College, Pierce College, Renton Technical College, Spokane Community College, and Whatcom Community College) has partnered with the Education Council and the Health Information & Management Systems Society. With federal grant funding, this Health e-Workforce Consortium plans to develop a federally registered Veterans Health IT Apprenticeship, implement a national Veterans Health IT Career Services Initiative, and leverage two current federal investments in Bellevue College Health IT and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT. This funding would also enable the Health e-Workforce Consortium to provide critical faculty development for budget constrained community colleges, create online courses for national dissemination, and begin national academic electronic medical record access for hands-on learning.

If awarded, this federal grant will directly assist over 2,000 veterans, their eligible spouses, and Trade Adjustment Act eligible workers to gain access to a high demand, high wage, and exponentially expanding field. Many more will benefit from enduring national inroads created in the health IT industry.

I ask that you give this letter your fullest consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator