

***Health Force and Resilience Force Act of 2020 has been endorsed by leading public health organizations, health care organizations, and world-renowned experts, including:***

**Endorsing Organizations**

**• Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH)**

"The Health Force will significantly improve health, security and economic outcomes in the US. Training unemployed or underemployed individuals to scale up public health interventions in low income, underserved areas will increase employment while meeting a number of important public needs. The Force will be a cost-effective way to prevent, detect and respond to disease outbreaks and will also reduce the increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases. We at CUGH fully support it."

**• Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)**

"The Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) would like to thank and support the efforts of Senators Gillibrand (D-NY) and Bennet (D-CO) and Representatives Crow (D-CO), Underwood (D-IL), and Panetta (D-CA) for their introduction of the Health Force and Resilience Force Act of 2020. This bill recognizes the need to expand our public health workforce, which includes social workers. The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health crisis that requires the expertise of health professions across the spectrum. As the national association representing social work education, CSWE is encouraged by these efforts to ensure that social workers and other health professionals are able to support disaster preparedness and response efforts for this and future crises."-- Darla Spence Coffey, PhD, MSW, President and CEO Council on Social Work Education

**• HealthBegins**

"We need an immediate surge in a community-based workforce to help protect the nation's health and restore economic opportunity, especially for low-income, minority, and immigrant families in our hardest-hit communities. The "Health Force" envisioned by this bill gives us hope. By supporting community nonprofits and health workers in each state, a national Health Force can help with contact tracing as well as long-term recovery efforts"

**• Last Mile Health**

"The novel coronavirus pandemic has disproportionately impacted the health of America's most vulnerable communities while forcing too many Americans out of work. The Health Force bill can be an antidote to this suffering. By hiring and training unemployed Americans to create a community-based Health Force to fight COVID19, the bill will help local health departments and organizations rapidly scale up testing, contact tracing and other efforts necessary to put the virus on lockdown while creating hundreds of thousands of jobs for people from the very communities most affected by the pandemic."

**• National Coalition of STD Directors**

"To fight back against this pandemic we need a significant federal investment in our state health departments to scale up contact tracing and testing. By investing in a "Health Force" of disease intervention specialists (DIS) and other contact tracers, Senators Gillibrand and Bennet and Representatives Underwood, Crow, and Panetta lay out a clear, sound public health strategy that will re-open our economy, keep it open, and replace thousands of much needed jobs. We urge other congressional members to support the 'Health Force and Resilience Force Act of 2020.'"

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- **Penn Center for Community Health Workers**

"I applaud Senators Gillibrand and Bennet for their Health Force and Resilience Force Bill. This will pave the way for community health workers and other community members to respond to COVID-19, and address all of its reverberating social, economic and health effects. I am confident that this bill will put Americans to work on the frontlines, build public health capacity and save lives."-- Dr. Shreya Kangovi, Executive Director

- **Resilience Force**

"The Health and Resilience Force taps into the grit and talent of America's communities to confront our nation's public health crisis. It also helps solve the growing unemployment crisis," said Saket Soni, Director of Resilience Force.

**Additional Endorsing Organizations Include:**

- **Blue Cross Blue Shield Association**

- **Community Health Acceleration Partnership, hosted by the Office of the WHO Ambassador for Global Strategy**

- **Families USA**

- **Insight Metrics**

- **Metrics for Management**

- **National Partnership for Women & Families**

- **Service Year**

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**Endorsing Experts**

**• Ambassador Susan Rice**

"Congress should fund both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the states to establish this 'Health Force' as proposed by Senator's Michael Bennet and Kirstin Gillibrand."

**• Craig Fugate, Former Administrator of FEMA**

"FEMA has unique flexible hiring authorities that are ideally suited for the coronavirus crisis. The Health and Resilience Force Act recognizes the role that FEMA can play by quickly hiring and deploying people to the areas most needed in this emerging crisis."

**• Dr. Elena Rios, President and CEO of the National Hispanic Medical Association**

"The Health Force and Resilience Force Act of 2020 will address the United States' need for an innovative health workforce, to respond to COVID-19 through a collaboration between Federal government, local public health departments and non-profit organizations, to recruit and train Americans for community-based health-related services, and especially to increase Latinos and other underrepresented in health careers."

**• Dr. Joshua Sharfstein, Professor of the Practice at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health**

"I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Health Force and Resilience Force Act of 2020. Creating a new national service program will mobilize the nation to fight the coronavirus. By creating jobs in the service of health and reopening, this bill is a double dose of economic recovery."

**• Dr. Michele Barry, Drs. Shensen Professor of Medicine and Tropical Diseases, Director of the Center for Innovation in Global Health, Senior Associate Dean for Global Health at Stanford University**

"This bill is a way we can strengthen not only our public health workforce but also is a way to re-employ community stakeholders and build collective resilience for pandemic response and preparedness."

**• JB Holston, Dean of the University of Denver's Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science**

"Sen. Bennet is also proposing the bold ideas we need to overcome this crisis. Last week, Bennet and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., proposed creating a Health Force, a historic initiative to employ hundreds of thousands of young people and unemployed Americans to support our public health response to the pandemic....There is no better and no more urgent opportunity for the country right now than a national service employment effort focused on our health and recovery."

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- **Dr. Richard Frank, Margaret T. Morris Professor of Health Economics, Harvard University**  
**Dr. Bianca Frogner, Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Director, Center for Health Workforce Studies, University of Washington**  
**Dr. David Grabowski, Professor of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School**  
**Dr. Jonathan Gruber, Ford Professor of Economics, MIT**  
**Dr. Joseph Newhouse, John D. MacArthur Professor of Health Policy and Management, Harvard University**  
"The COVID-19 crisis has brought into stark relief the shortcomings of our public health workforce - especially in hours of crisis. The simultaneous displacement of millions of workers from their jobs with a need for more workers in public health calls for a program that creates public health jobs to boost our physical and economic health. The Bennet-Gillibrand bill is a terrific step towards providing this boost to our society"

**Additional Endorsing Experts Include:**

- **Dr. Nirali Chakraborty, Director of Research and Technical Assistance, Metrics for Management**
- **Dr. Rishi Manchanda, President, HealthBegins**
- **Dr. Joseph Naimoli, Public Health Scientist**
- **Dr. Raj Panjabi, CEO of Last Mile Health, and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham & Women's Hospital**