

Hagan Helps Introduce Bill Aimed at Adding Primary Care Doctors in Rural Areas

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Thursday, 13 August 2009 09:11

Senator Kay Hagan joined Senator Mark Udall, of Colorado, to introduce a bill that she says will address the shortage of primary care doctors in rural communities.

The bill is called Rural Physician Pipeline Act.

Hagan said, "Physician shortages are widespread across the country, but especially in rural and underserved areas. Only about 10 percent of physicians practice in rural areas, yet nearly a quarter of the population lives in these areas. This bill addresses this crisis by creating a specific medical track for students interested in practicing medicine in rural communities."

Hagan said the bill would give medical schools the resources to establish or expand rural training programs that will help schools recruit students from rural areas who want to practice in their hometowns or other rural communities.