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On behalf of the New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus Foundation, we are proud to share our strong support for RWJBarnabas Health and the meaningful partnership we have built together. Through this collaboration, RWJBarnabas Health has played an important role in strengthening NJLBCF's workforce development and community health initiatives, helping us expand opportunities for students and families who have historically faced barriers to access and equity.

In 2025, NJLBCF supported our largest internship cohort to date, reflecting both growing demand and increased capacity made possible through the support of partners like RWJBarnabas Health. Paid internships are critical for students from low income and first-generation backgrounds who often cannot afford to accept unpaid roles. Research from the United States Department of Education and public universities consistently shows that paid experiential learning improves student persistence, graduation rates, and post-graduation employment outcomes for marginalized students. Building on this progress, NJLBCF is preparing to expand our model to include fellowship opportunities that provide deeper leadership development and sustained career exposure.

RWJBarnabas Health's support has also strengthened our virtual health summits, which are intentionally designed through an equity focused lens to reach communities disproportionately impacted by health disparities. National public health data confirms that accessible and culturally responsive health education is essential to improving health outcomes and reducing systemic gaps. By removing geographic and logistical barriers, our virtual summits promote inclusive access to trusted information, amplify diverse voices, and empower participants to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.

The partnership with RWJBarnabas Health reflects a shared commitment to equity, education, and community centered solutions. This funding has helped NJLBCF responsibly scale our programs, deepen impact, and build sustainable pathways for future leaders in health and public service. We value this collaboration and recognize its importance in advancing long term opportunity and community wellness across New Jersey.

Best regards,

Senator Angela V. McKnight, Chair

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