

November 26, 2024

RE: Elizabeth Leiser  
Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education  
Dr. Mary K. Beyrer Graduate Student Scholarship recommendation letter

Dear Selection Committee:

I strongly support Elizabeth Leiser's application for the Foundation for the Advancement of Health Education's Dr. Mary K. Beyrer Graduate Student Scholarship. Additionally, I can verify that Liz's transcript reflects that she has earned a grade point average of 4.0. I first got to know Liz as a student in my Health Services Management and Economics course in Fall 2022, and she has been working with me as a research assistant since Summer 2024.

I understand that this scholarship recognizes students engaged in professional activity that contributes to public health education. As a research assistant, Liz is making substantial contributions to materials that educate legal, policy, and lay audiences about important public health issues. She is a thorough and careful, yet also quick and efficient, researcher and a clear and concise writer. She easily grasps complex technical issues and asks insightful questions. Perhaps most importantly, she is able to distill key points from her research into compelling accessible language.

Over the past six months, Liz's research has formed the basis of three posts at The Commonwealth Fund's *To the Point* blog, which educate the public about the policy implications of Georgia's experimental program that requires Medicaid enrollees to work, a new federal regulation that seeks to expand access to Medicaid community-based long-term care services for older adults and people with disabilities, and the Supreme Court's *Loper Bright* decision, which adopts a new standard for how federal courts review challenges to agency regulations.

Additionally, Liz contributed research to an *amicus* brief that our team filed in the U.S. Supreme Court this fall on behalf of 120 public health deans and scholars, the American Public Health Association, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Trust for America's Health, and ChangeLab Solutions. The brief supports the federal government's request for the Court to review *Braidwood v. Becerra*, a case that threatens the Affordable Care Act's cost-free preventive services coverage guarantee. Liz's research helped us to illustrate the adverse public health consequences of reducing Americans' access to life-saving preventive care.

Liz also has taken the lead on researching and drafting a forthcoming issue brief that reviews federal and state policy actions to promote continuity of coverage among Medicaid enrollees. Notably, the quality of Liz's research and writing stands out as especially well done, even though she is the only undergraduate student on a team that includes graduate and law students as well as post-graduate researchers. The doctoral student on our research team also has shared with me how impressed she is with Liz's work.

As a student, Liz always came to class prepared, enthusiastic, and highly motivated to learn. She regularly made thoughtful contributions to class discussions and took initiative to come to office hours to get feedback on her assignments. Liz worked hard throughout the semester and earned one of the top grades in the course, which is especially impressive since she was then a first-semester sophomore taking an upper level course that is geared toward juniors and seniors.

For her pro forma report, Liz designed an organization that would provide education and opioid disposal supplies in an effort to reduce the high opioid mortality rate in Washington, DC. The pro forma is a challenging assignment that requires students to develop the mission, goals, budget, staffing, operations, and evaluation plan for their organization, among other components. Liz's paper was extremely well done. She is a strong writer, and the budget and staffing plan that she designed for her organization were especially detailed, clear, and thoughtful. She effectively used relevant data to define the issue her organization would address and to support the specific interventions she proposed.

I am thrilled that Liz will continue as a research assistant on our team in 2025, as she continues the coursework for her MPH in health policy. She already is working on new projects designed to educate the public about upcoming policy and legal threats to affordable health coverage and care, and she is committed to a career advancing public health. By supporting her graduate studies, this scholarship would be a well-deserved recognition of her excellent contributions to public health education to date as well as her strong potential to advance the field in important ways as her career progresses.

Sincerely,



MaryBeth Musumeci  
Associate Teaching Professor