

January 12, 2007

The Honorable David Obey Chair, Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

As you work to complete the FY 2007 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill via a year-long joint resolution, the undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) respectfully urge you to provide an additional \$155 million for Title VII health professions programs to reverse the 51.5 percent cut enacted in FY 2006. Title VII programs are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to meet the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce. HPNEC's membership is comprised of medical, nursing, dental, public health, allied health professional and academic associations that support these Title VII and VIII programs.

As a result of the drastic cuts in FY 2006, funding was eliminated for Geriatric Training, Health Education and Training Centers, and the Quentin Burdick Rural Program for Interdisciplinary Training. The budget also significantly cut funding for primary care training and virtually eliminated funding for the Health Careers Opportunity Program and the Centers of Excellence, two of the diversity programs under Title VII.

We urge you to restore funding to the Title VII health professions programs to the FY 2005 level of \$300 million, by providing an additional \$155 million for Title VII in FY 2007. **These vital programs cannot survive another year without this funding.** With this amount, Congress can revive the Title VII programs and avoid the far more costly expense of losing these unique programs that help resolve systemic workforce shortages and deliver care to our nation's most vulnerable communities.

Your support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you to ensure the continuation of congressional support for these critical programs that are necessary to preserving the health and well-being of the American people.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry
Advocate Health Care
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Nurse Practitioners

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physician Assistants

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of Occupational Health Nurses

American College of Nurse Practitioners

American College of Osteopathic Internists

American College of Physicians

American College of Preventive Medicine

American Dental Association

American Geriatrics Society

American Medical Student Association

American Nephrology Nurses' Association

American Nurses Association

American Occupational Therapy Association

American Osteopathic Association

American Pediatric Society

American Psychological Association

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Association of Academic Health Centers

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

Association of Chiropractic Colleges

Association of Departments of Family Medicine

Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Association of Minority Health Professions Schools

Association of Professors of Medicine

Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine

Association of University Programs in Health Administration

Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine

Council of Accredited Master of Public Health Programs

Health Professions Network

Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools

Medicine-Pediatrics Program Directors Association

National Area Health Education Centers Organization

National Association for Geriatric Education

National Association of County and City Health Officials

National Association of Geriatric Education Centers

National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.

National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions

National League for Nursing

National Rural Health Association

North American Primary Care Research Group

Oncology Nursing Society

Society for Adolescent Medicine Society for General Internal Medicine Society for Pediatric Research Society for Public Health Education Society of Teachers of Family Medicine