



March 26, 2012

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rehberg, Chairman Harkin, Rep. DeLauro, and Senator Shelby:

The 57 undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to recommend \$520 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing programs in the FY 2013 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill. HPNEC is an alliance of national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of our diverse population.

Since 1963, the programs have demonstrated effectiveness in preparing the health care workforce to adapt and respond to the country's changing needs. As the only federal programs focused on filling the gaps in the supply of health professionals not met by traditional market forces, insufficient funding for Title VII and VIII will aggravate challenges in boosting the supply of primary care practitioners, increasing diversity of the workforce, and improving the distribution of health professionals. Worse, given the synergistic nature of the programs, significant cuts to or elimination of any of the Title VII and VIII programs may reverse the progress to date in mitigating such challenges, particularly for special and underserved communities.

The population is growing, aging, and becoming increasingly diverse. Residents of underserved rural and urban areas alike already struggle to access health providers. We urge you to ensure the next generation of health professionals is equipped to address these health care complexities by prioritizing funding for the health professions programs as you begin drafting the FY 2013 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Nurses Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association
American Society of Radiologic Technologists
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical 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 Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
California Association of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselors
Coalition for Urban Serving Universities
College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
Council on Social Work Education
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Minority Medical Educators, Inc.
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League of Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties

North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Physician Assistant Education Association
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine