



March 15, 2010

Representative David Obey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and  
Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Todd Tiahrt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and  
Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

The undersigned organizations write to urge you to provide at least \$600 million for the Title VII health professions programs and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs in the FY 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. This appropriations level is needed if these programs are to fulfill their shared mission of improving the supply, distribution, and diversity of health professionals nationwide.

Through student loans, loan guarantees, and scholarships to students, and grants and contracts to academic institutions, the Title VII and Title VIII programs are the only sources of federal funding dedicated to educating and training providers in interdisciplinary settings to meet the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as to increase minority representation in the health care workforce. As such, these programs are a vital contributor to the health care safety net, not only preparing aspiring professionals to meet the country's workforce needs, but also helping to improve health outcomes across all populations.

The multi-year nature of health professions education and training, coupled with unprecedented existing and looming provider shortages across many disciplines necessitates a continued, reliable investment in the Title VII and Title VIII programs. While we understand that there are many competing priorities in the FY 2011 appropriations bill, it is essential that Congress renews its commitment to the health professions programs to aid in resolving systemic workforce shortages and to help deliver care to the country's most vulnerable communities.

An investment in these programs is not only an investment in the future of the health workforce, but in the future health of the nation. We urge you to fully fund the Title VII and Title VIII programs in the FY 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. Your support is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the continuation of congressional support for these critical programs.

Sincerely,



Academic Pediatric Association  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
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 College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Education Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Nurses Association  
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 Professors of Medicine  
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses  
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine  
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities  
Council on Social Work Education  
National AHEC Organization  
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.  
National Athletic Trainers Association



National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions  
National League for Nursing  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Rural Health Association  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Physician Assistant Education Association  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society of Teachers in Family Medicine  
Student National Medical Association