



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

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

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

February 27, 2013

Dear Chairmen Kingston and Harkin and Ranking Members Shelby and DeLauro:

The 60 undersigned organizations of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to urge you to preserve full funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs as you finalize the FY 2013 appropriations bills. HPNEC is an informal alliance of national organizations dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of the country's growing, aging, and diverse population.

In 2013, the programs will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and part of their longstanding success can be attributed to their ability to adapt and respond to the country's changing health care needs. Today, we have a nation that is growing and becoming increasingly diverse. Further, the country faces a rapidly growing, aging population and millions more Americans seeking access to care.

Titles VII and VIII ensure the nation is equipped with a workforce to provide well-coordinated, quality care, to alleviate primary care provider shortages, and to improve access to care for all populations. Diversifying the health care workforce is a central focus of the Title VII and VIII programs, making them a key player in the fight to mitigate racial, ethnic, and socio-economic health disparities, which are estimated to cost the nation \$363.1 billion by 2050.

Further, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts the health care sector will be one of the fastest growing in terms of jobs. In a difficult economy, Title VII and Title VIII play an important role in guiding individuals to high-demand health professions jobs, fulfilling both their individual career goals and a community's health needs.



Yet, continued cuts threaten to reverse the programs' progress to date in increasing the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health professions workforce and increasing access to care for children, adults, and seniors. While we recognize the challenges you face in a difficult budget environment that continues to target discretionary spending, these programs cannot sustain further reductions. We urge you to preserve the relatively modest investment in Titles VII and VIII, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the continuation of Congressional support for programs in FY 2013.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Society  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
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 Practitioners  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Education Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
Association for Minority Health Professions Schools  
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 Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

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California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors  
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities  
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health  
Council on Social Work Education  
Health Professions Network  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association  
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools  
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium  
Movement is Life  
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 Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National League for 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