



August 19, 2011

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

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The 45 undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to urge full funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII and Title VIII programs in the FY 2012 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. HPNEC supports a commitment to the programs commensurate with the need identified in HRSA's FY 2012 Congressional Budget Justification for \$762.5 million to help mitigate provider shortages across health professions disciplines.

The Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing education programs are the only federal programs that specifically address some of the nation's most pressing health care workforce concerns (such as primary care), help meet the needs of special and underserved populations, and help improve the diversity of the nation's health care workforce. Since 1963, the programs have helped prepare the health care workforce to respond to the country's evolving needs. For example, in recognition of the increasingly team-based nature of health care, the programs facilitate education and training opportunities for a wide range of health professionals in interdisciplinary settings. Similarly, the programs equip tomorrow's health care workforce to care for the country's growing, aging population, and help fill other gaps in the supply of health professionals not met by traditional market forces.

Through student loans, loan guarantees, and scholarships to students, and grants and contracts to institutions, the Title VII and VIII programs seek to enhance health care services in rural and underserved areas and guide aspiring and practicing health professionals to communities and careers where vacancies persist. The programs remain a critical element of the nation's health care safety net and will continue to strengthen the workforce as more individuals seek access to health care services.

While we recognize the difficult decisions Congress faces in securing the nation's fiscal stability, we urge you to prioritize the nation's health care workforce needs with \$762.5 million for the Title VII and Title VIII programs in FY 2012. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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 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 Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Education Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Nurses Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Departments of Family Medicine  
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health  
Council on Social Work Education  
National AHEC Organization  
National Association of Medical Minority Educators  
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  
National Rural Health Association  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Physician Assistant Education Association  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
Student National Medical Association