



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