



September 17, 2015

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

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

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

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

Dear Chairmen Cole and Blunt and Ranking Members DeLauro and Murray:

The 54 undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to urge you to provide robust funding levels for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs as you finalize fiscal year (FY) 2016 appropriations. HPNEC is an informal 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 the country's growing, aging, and diverse population.

Titles VII and VIII are the only federally-funded programs that seek to improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health professions workforce, with an emphasis on primary care and interdisciplinary training. By providing educational and training opportunities to aspiring and practicing health professionals, the programs also play a critical role in helping the workforce adapt to meet the nation's changing health care needs. The programs continue to prepare health professionals for new care delivery models and emerging health care challenges, enhance the size and diversity of the health care workforce, and improve access to primary care for children, adults, and seniors. Moreover, in a recovering economy, Titles VII and VIII play an important role in guiding individuals to high-demand health care jobs, fulfilling both their individual career goals and a community's health needs.

HPNEC is grateful for your longstanding recognition of the role the health workforce plays in ensuring the well-being of the population. We urge you to provide the higher of the House Committee- and Senate Committee-approved funding levels for each Title VII and Title VIII program, but no less than the FY 2015 level for each program. Your continued support for the relatively modest investment in these programs is critical as budget cuts threaten to reverse

progress made in mitigating the nation's health care workforce challenges. We recognize the difficult choices you face in light of an inadequate subcommittee allocation; therefore, we hope lawmakers will work together to enact sequestration relief that increases the subcommittee allocation, as these essential programs cannot sustain further reductions.

We have a nation that is growing and becoming increasingly diverse. At a time when millions of Americans are accessing health care for the first time, it is crucial that our future health professionals have the necessary programs and resources to keep up with the rapidly growing and aging population. We urge you to ensure the next generation of health professionals is equipped to address the nation's health care complexities by providing robust funding for Titles VII and VIII in the final FY 2016 spending bill.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Dental Research
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 Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Association
American Pediatric Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
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 Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
Council on Social Work Education
Health Professions Network
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
Movement is Life
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education Centers
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
Pediatric Policy Council
Physician Assistant Education Association
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine