November 8, 2005

The Honorable
United States
Washington, DC

Dear Senator/Representative:

The undersigned organizations urge you to retain the Senate-approved appropriation of $454.4 million for the Title VII and VIII health professions programs as you negotiate the final FY 2006 appropriations bill.

The Title VII and VIII programs are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to meet the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce. Additionally, the Title VII and VIII programs address the shortages and geographic maldistribution of providers by training them to deliver care in underserved areas, including rural and inner-city communities.

We understand that there are many competing priorities in the FY 2006 bill; however, sustaining these programs’ funding is essential to ensure that quality care is being delivered in our country’s neediest communities. Any decreases to these programs would hamper their ability to continue to prepare an array of health professionals to help fill the health care delivery gaps across the country. Hence, we urge you to retain the amounts provided for the Title VII and VIII health professions programs in the Senate version of the FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill.

Your support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you to ensure the continuation of congressional support for these critical programs.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
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 Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Community Colleges
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Student Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Radiologic Technologists
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Professors of Medicine
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professionals
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
Health Professions Network
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
National Area Health Education Centers Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National League for Nursing
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society of General Internal Medicine