



*Excellence in Health Administration Education*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA)  
Responds to the Bush Administration's proposed budget**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**— In Fiscal Year 2002 Congress passed and President Bush signed an appropriations bill that included \$1.231 million for Health Administration Traineeships and Special Projects. This program is authorized in Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. For Fiscal Year 2004, the President's recommended budget deletes the entire line item for Health Administration. This budget is currently under debate in Congress.

AUPHA is requesting that the line item continue to be funded at not less than \$1.231 million. This request is not for new money, but rather a continuation of the funding levels of recent years. The funding goes to the training of highly competent health administrators, and is critically important in the wider context of quality, safety and accessibility of healthcare. The responsibility of funding such programs properly belongs to the Federal government, which has a stake in diversity, provision of services to underserved populations and quality assurance. While this funding is not large, its elimination has far-reaching ramifications for Health Administration as a whole, and the AUPHA programs in particular.

The AUPHA programs use this funding to lay the groundwork for the future of healthcare in this country. Without it, fewer new administrators will be available to lead health services delivery systems, particularly in underserved rural and urban areas. The monies often fund students from disadvantaged populations, so the loss of that funding would represent a serious setback to the ever-present goal of addressing diversity. Moreover, there is the issue that many health delivery systems in underserved areas lack trained and qualified leadership, resulting in lesser quality services and inefficient use of resources. These traineeships and special project grants help address that problem and provide opportunities to improve healthcare services in underserved communities.

The Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) is a network of colleges, universities, faculty, individuals and organizations dedicated to the improvement of healthcare delivery through excellence in Health Administration Education. Our membership includes the premier Baccalaureate and Masters degree programs in health administration education in the United States.

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