



May 1, 2007

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), I write to ask you to support the funding level proposed by the House of Representatives for domestic discretionary spending as you negotiate the conference agreement on the FY 2008 Budget Resolution. The House Budget Resolution (H.Con.Res. 99) includes a total of \$454 billion, which is \$7 billion more than proposed in the Senate Budget Resolution (S.Con.Res. 21). HPNEC is a coalition of over 70 national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring the health workforce is trained through Title VII and VIII health professions and nursing education programs to meet the needs of our diverse population.

The Title VII health professions programs were severely cut in the FY 2006 budget, and most funding was not restored in the final FY 2007 joint resolution. The drastic cuts eliminated many valuable programs designed to improve the diversity and distribution of the health care workforce. HPNEC, along with 98 Representatives in a March 16 letter led by Representatives Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.), is urging appropriators to restore the Title VII programs to their FY 2005 level of \$300 million. A similar letter is circulating in the Senate, led by Senators Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Pat Roberts (R-Kan.). Additionally, HPNEC applauds the adoption of the Specter-Harkin amendment in the Senate version of the budget resolution, which adds \$2.2 billion to Function 550 to help restore funding for the Title VII health professions programs to their FY 2005 levels.

We recognize the multitude of priorities Congress must address in formulating the budget. However, preserving our nation's access to quality health care providers must remain a top priority. HPNEC urges you to support the House Budget Resolution's higher funding level for domestic discretionary programs.

Sincerely,

Erica Froyd  
Executive Director