



May 18, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

The undersigned organizations write to urge you to fund fully the health professions education programs by providing at least \$300 million for Title VII health professions programs and \$200 million for Title VIII nursing workforce development programs in the FY 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. These appropriations levels provide vital support for the programs to fulfill their shared mission of improving the supply, distribution, and diversity of health professionals nationwide.

In FY 2006, funding for the Title VII programs was drastically reduced by 51 percent. For most of the programs, these funding levels were maintained in the FY 2007 Joint Funding Resolution, causing programs across the nation to cease their activities. As you know, a March 16 letter led by Reps. DeGette and McMorris Rodgers was signed by 98 Representatives requesting a restoration of Title VII funds. The leaders of the Congressional TriCaucus also noted the value of restored funding for Title VII in a separate March 16 letter. A third letter, led by Reps. Capps and LaTourette and signed by 96 Representatives, highlighted the importance of support for Title VIII.

While we understand there are many competing priorities in the FY 2008 bill, it is essential that Congress reverse the enacted cuts to the health professions programs to help resolve systemic workforce shortages and deliver care to our nation's most vulnerable communities. Supporting the Title VII and VIII programs is an investment in the health professions workforce and the health of the nation. We urge you to restore the devastating cuts from FY 2006, by fully funding the Title VII and VIII programs in the FY 2008 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 that are necessary to preserving the health and well-being of the American people.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry
Advocate Health Care
Ambulatory Pediatric Association

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of HIV Medicine
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 Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Student Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Pediatric Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Society of Radiologic Technologists
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 Schools of Allied Health Professions
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses
National Area Health Education Centers Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc
National Association of Social Workers
National Conference of Geriatric Nurse Practitioners
National Council for Diversity in Health Professions
National Rural Health Association
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
The Health Professions Network