



June 6, 2005

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula:

The undersigned organizations write to urge you to restore funding to the Title VII health professions programs to at least the FY 2005 level of \$300 million and provide an increase for the Title VIII nursing programs in FY 2006 over the FY 2005 level of \$150.67 million.

The president's proposed FY 2006 budget eliminates most of the funding for the Title VII health professions programs, by providing just \$11 million for these programs, a 96 percent cut below the current year. We thank for your leadership in providing \$300 million in funding last year, and we believe that any decreases could hamper the programs' ability to train health professionals to care for the neediest populations.

The Title VII and VIII health professions and nursing education programs are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations. These programs have shown to increase minority representation in the health care workforce, which we believe is essential for our health system. At a time when the American people have come to rely on their health care providers more than ever, eliminating this resource would be devastating to the country's underserved communities.

We understand that there are many competing priorities in your fiscal year 2006 bill; however, sustaining these programs' funding is essential to maintaining the training infrastructures in health professions schools nationwide. We urge you to restore funding to the Title VII health professions programs to at least the FY 2005 level of \$300 million and provide an increase to the Title VIII nursing programs during consideration of the FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to ensure the continuation of congressional support for these critical programs.

Sincerely,

Administrators of Internal Medicine
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Student Association
American Nurses Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Radiologic Technologists
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Practice Residency Directors
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 Teachers of Preventive Medicine
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools, Inc.
North American Primary Care Research Group
National Area Health Education Center Organization
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Geriatric Education
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Rural Health Association
Medicine-Pediatrics Program Directors Association
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

