



June 19, 2007

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin:

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.

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,

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 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 Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Geriatrics Society
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
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 University Programs in Health Administration
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses
National Area Health Education Centers Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association for Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.
National Association of Social Workers
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National League for Nursing
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
Student National Medical Association

