



December 6, 2006

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

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 \$175 million for Title VIII nursing programs in the FY 2007 budget. The FY 2007 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bills in both the House (H.R. 5647, H. Rept. 109-515) and the Senate (S. 3708, S. Rept. 109-287) eliminate or seriously underfund these programs that are necessary to preserving the health and well-being of the American people.

The FY 2006 budget cut funding for the Title VII programs by 51.5 percent, which includes the elimination of funding for geriatric training, Health Education and Training Centers, and the Quentin Burdick Rural Program for Interdisciplinary training. The budget also drastically cut funding for primary care training and virtually eliminated funding for the Health Careers Opportunity Program and the Centers of Excellence, two of the diversity programs under Title VII. These and other Title VII and VIII programs are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to meet the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

While we understand there are many competing priorities in the FY 2007 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. We urge you to restore funding to the Title VII health professions programs to at least the FY 2005 level of \$300 million, and to provide \$175 million for the Title VIII nursing programs during consideration of the FY 2007 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.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry
Administrators of Internal Medicine
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
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 College of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
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 Professors of Medicine
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of University Programs in Health Administration
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
Council of Accredited MPH Programs
Medicine-Pediatrics Program Directors Association
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 Council of Centers of Excellence
National League for Nursing
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges
National Rural Health Association

North American Primary Care Research Group
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Student National Medical Association