



December 9, 2005

The Honorable
United States
Washington, DC

Dear Representative:

The undersigned organizations urge you to support the Senate-passed levels for the Title VII and VIII health professions programs in the final version of the FY 2006 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill (H.R. 3010). The House rejected the previous conference agreement because it seriously underfunded these programs that are necessary to preserving the health and well-being of the American people.

The conference agreement cuts funding for the Title VII programs by 69 percent, which includes the elimination of funding for geriatric training, Health Education and Training Centers, and the Quentin Burdick Rural Program for Interdisciplinary Training. 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. Additionally, the Title VII and VIII programs address the shortages and geographic maldistribution of providers by training them to deliver care in underserved areas, including rural and inner-city communities.

We understand that there are many competing priorities in the FY 2006 bill; however, sustaining these programs' funding is essential to ensure that quality care is being delivered in our country's neediest communities. Any decreases to these programs would hamper their ability to continue to prepare an array of health professionals to work in rural areas, which are desperately in need of well-trained providers. Hence, we urge you to retain the amounts provided for the Title VII and VIII health professions programs in the Senate version of the FY 2006 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,

Administrators of Internal Medicine
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Student Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
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 American Veterinary 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 Professions
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
Health Professions Network
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Area Health Education Centers Organization
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges
North American Primary Care Research Group
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine