



December 19, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President-elect  
451 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear President-elect Obama:

The members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) congratulate you on your election to the White House and thank you for your consistent support of the Title VII and Title VIII health professions and nursing education programs. HPNEC is an alliance of more than 60 national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring the health workforce is educated and trained to meet the needs of our diverse population.

As you know, the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Title VII and VIII programs improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health professions workforce, with an emphasis on primary care and interdisciplinary training. Through loans, loan guarantees, and scholarships to students, and grants and contracts to academic institutions and non-profit organizations, the programs are designed to train providers to meet the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce. Yet, Title VII health professions programs have struggled to recover funding lost by a drastic 51.5 percent (\$155 million) cut in FY 2006, and funding for the Title VIII nursing programs has remained relatively flat at a time of national nursing shortages.

HPNEC members are deeply appreciative of your steadfast commitment to restoring and increasing funding for these vital programs each year of your tenure in the Senate. Likewise, the pledge outlined in your campaign's "Plan for a Healthy America" – to expand federal funding for health care workforce training, including efforts to improve diversity and support primary care, public health, and the health care safety net – is directly aligned with the objectives of the Title VII and VIII programs. With widespread provider shortages across health disciplines, it will be essential to bolster the health care workforce, particularly as the nation considers health care reform. HPNEC respectfully urges you to support full funding for the health professions and nursing education and training programs as part of a comprehensive strategy to improve the nation's health.

Once again, congratulations and best wishes. We look forward to working with your administration to reinvest in and revitalize the Title VII and VIII programs.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)  
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 Nurse Anesthetists  
American College of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Education Association  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society (APS)  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health 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 Medicine Residency Directors  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs (AMSPDC)  
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 University Programs in Health Administration  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN)  
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine  
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities  
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA) [formerly the National Conference of Gerontological Nurse Practitioners (NCGNP)]  
Health Professions Network  
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools (HSHPS)

HIV Medicine Association  
National Area Health Education Centers Organization  
National Association for Geriatric Education (NAGE)  
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers (NAGEC)  
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc. (NAMME)  
National Athletic Trainers' Association  
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges  
National Rural Health Association  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Society for General Internal Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research (SPR)  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

cc: OMB Director-Designate Peter Orszag, Ph.D.  
The Honorable Tom Daschle