

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Representative David Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education and Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Representative James Walsh
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education and Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh:

As you begin your work on the fiscal year (FY) 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to increase funding for Title VII health professionals funding to the amount appropriated in FY 2005 (approximately \$299,552,000). As you well know, these programs provide direct financial support for health care workforce development and education. In addition, they are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

The FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill dramatically reduced funding for Title VII health professions programs, resulting in a 51 percent overall cut below FY 2005. These funding levels were continued for the remainder of FY 2007 in the recently passed continuing resolution. At a time of serious health professions shortages, reducing this resource has already had devastating effects to the country's neediest communities. By restoring funding to these programs to FY 2005 levels, you will enable them to continue to improve the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce.

We respectfully urge you to restore funding to the Title VII programs in the FY 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Cris M

John B

Alison

Jim McEwan

Wm. Jay Clay

John Lewis

Mark

Doris O. Matsui

Jim Sanger

M

Allyson J. Schwartz

Thomas Price

Ben H

Chuck G. B

Ron Paul

Stephen J. Lynch

Phil Lingrey

Zoe L

Stu R

Tony Baldwin

Julia Carson

Louise M. Slaughter

Norm Dicks

Bobby L. Rush

Gene Kern

Paul Hargill

Ernest O'Neal

Wendell Ford

Shirley Jackson

Albert R. Brown

Rubin Hernandez

James R. Buckley

John O'Connell

Carlton B. Felt

Bert Gordon

Grace F. Napolitano

Walter Bell

Edward J. Murphy

John Barrett

Tom Dwyer

Rick Boucher

Erin L. Enge

Jim Moran

Elizabeth Cummings

Janita Trimmer-Lonell

Howard L. Berman

Colt C. Larson

Robt. H. H. H.

Thomas J. McHally

Henry O. Wayman

Earl Blumenauer

Al Keshall

John Smith

Bill Pascrell Jr.

Neil Abernethy

E. Penning

Michael E. Caputo

Joe Baca

Raul M. Higuera

Sam Fann

Mazie Hirono

Laird Cooper

Tom Ullrich

Dean Heller

Jan Schatz

Jim McDermott

Barbara Lubin

Julie Linn

Stephanie Herseth

Susan A. Davis

Marilyn Musgrave

Hilda L. Solis

D. Packard

Mike Cottle

Ivan Smorre

Bruce Baird

Dennis J. Kuenrich

John B. Rasmussen

Jammy K. Davis

Arlene Horley

H. E. Suler

Yvette J. Clarke

Jerry Moran

Cheryl

J. S. Axton

Hank Johnson

Russ Conahan

Shelley Beckley

Yann Bon

Donald M. Payne

Charles Latta

Miss V. Heston

Mad. Lee

Miss E. Watson