



Talking Points on FY 2007 Funding for Title VII Health Professions Programs

Background and Timeline

- In FY 2006, Title VII programs were cut by \$154 million (51.5 percent).
- The bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee does not restore funding for Title VII programs to FY 2005 levels. The bill eliminates the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), most Centers of Excellence (COE), and Public Health, Preventive Medicine, and Dental grants.
- The bill approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee does not restore funding for Title VII programs to FY 2005 levels. The bill eliminates funding for most HCOPs and COEs and geriatrics training programs.

Important Points

- Elimination of the programs will have an immediate impact of training and recruitment of health professions students and the educational infrastructures developed and supported by Title VII.
- Community Health Centers (CHC) and the National Health Service Corps rely on graduates of Title VII programs to fill their ranks. A study in the March 1, 2006 issue of *JAMA* documents the shortage of providers at CHCs and recommends increased support for Title VII.
- The programs are unique in that they are the only federal investment in interdisciplinary training, which is vitally important as care is often provided in interdisciplinary settings.
- The programs are designed to enhance minority representation in the health care workforce, which is essential to providing access to care, as minority providers are more likely than others to care for underserved populations.
- The programs seek to reduce shortages of health professionals in underserved areas, such as inner cities and the many rural regions throughout the country.
- The programs leverage significant state and private resources by using federal seed money to start up programs.
- Not only does this funding support essential training programs, it facilitates the delivery of care to the underserved areas of the country through the AHECs and Health Education and Training Centers (HETCs)
- **Personalize it! Let Members of Congress know what grants will be lost, how many will be affected, and the devastating impact the elimination of these programs will have on your institutions and the delivery of health care in your communities, i.e., their states and districts.**

The Ask

- Ask Members to urge leadership to support restoration of the Title VII funds to FY 2005 levels (\$300 million).
- Ask Senators to sign the Specter-Harkin letter urging leadership to allocate the full \$7 billion for Labor-HHS-Education programs.
- Ask moderate House Republicans to sign the Castle letter urging leadership to allocate the full \$7 billion for Labor-HHS-Education programs.