



Talking Points on FY 2008 Funding for Title VII Health Professions Programs

Background and Timeline

- In FY 2006, Title VII programs were funded at \$145 million, a \$154 million (51.5 percent) cut.
- The FY 2007 joint funding resolution provided \$185 million for Title VII, a \$40 million (27.2 percent) increase over FY 2006, but did not fully restore funding to FY 2005 levels (\$300 million). The funding resolution maintained the elimination of the rural training programs, the workforce information and analysis program, health administration traineeships, and Health Education Training Centers (HETCs), and virtual elimination of HCOP, COE, and allied health programs.
- For FY 2008, the House-passed Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill provides \$228 million for Title VII, a \$43 million (23.6 percent) increase over FY 2007. The Senate version provides \$188 million for Title VII, a \$3 million (1.6 percent) increase.

Important Points

- Elimination of the programs has an immediate impact on 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 often is 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 HETCs.

The Ask

- For FY 2008, HPNEC urges Congress to provide **at least \$228 million for Title VII**. This funding level provides for partial restoration of some Title VII programs (HCOP and COE), but still falls far short of FY 2005 levels (\$300 million).
- Ask Members to contact House and Senate leadership in support of full funding for the Title VII programs in FY 2008.