

Talking Points on FY 2006 Funding for Title VII Health Professions Programs



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Background and Timeline

- House-passed bill eliminates funding for all Title VII programs, with the exception of \$35 million for Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (a 25 percent cut below last year) and \$12 million for Centers of Excellence (a 64 percent cut). Title VII received \$300 million in FY 2005.
- Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee to take up bill on July 12, with full Appropriations Committee consideration shortly after.

Important Points

- Elimination of the programs will have immediate impact of training and recruitment of health professions students and the educational infrastructures developed and supported by Title VII.
- Community Health Centers and the National Health Service Corps rely on graduates of Title VII programs to fill their ranks. CHCs are in need of 11,000 clinicians, a goal that cannot be met without providers specially trained through Title VII programs to care for indigent populations.
- 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

- Urge Senate Appropriators to restore the Title VII funds in the Senate version of the bill. Urge all Senators to contact the Senate Appropriations Committee to express their support for the programs.
- Ask Representatives to urge House leadership to support restoration of the Title VII funds during conference.