



March 15, 2010

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

Representative Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and
Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

The undersigned organizations write to urge you to provide at least \$600 million for the Title VII health professions programs and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs in the FY 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. This appropriations level is needed if these programs are to fulfill their shared mission of improving the supply, distribution, and diversity of health professionals nationwide.

Through student loans, loan guarantees, and scholarships to students, and grants and contracts to academic institutions, the Title VII and Title VIII programs are the only sources of federal funding dedicated to educating and training providers in interdisciplinary settings to meet the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as to increase minority representation in the health care workforce. As such, these programs are a vital contributor to the health care safety net, not only preparing aspiring professionals to meet the country's workforce needs, but also helping to improve health outcomes across all populations.

The multi-year nature of health professions education and training, coupled with unprecedented existing and looming provider shortages across many disciplines necessitates a continued, reliable investment in the Title VII and Title VIII programs. While we understand that there are many competing priorities in the FY 2011 appropriations bill, it is essential that Congress renews its commitment to the health professions programs to aid in resolving systemic workforce shortages and to help deliver care to the country's most vulnerable communities.

An investment in these programs is not only an investment in the future of the health workforce, but in the future health of the nation. We urge you to fully fund the Title VII and Title VIII programs in the FY 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. Your support is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the continuation of congressional support for these critical programs.

Sincerely,



Academic Pediatric Association
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
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 College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Chiropractic Colleges
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Professors of Medicine
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
Council on Social Work Education
National AHEC Organization
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.
National Association of Social Workers



National Athletic Trainers Association
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National League for Nursing
National Rural Health Association
North American Primary Care Research Group
Physician Assistant Education Association
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers in Family Medicine
Student National Medical Association