



March 20, 2009

Mary Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN
Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Wakefield:

The members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) congratulate you on your appointment as Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Given your knowledge and expertise on the health care workforce, we are confident that your leadership will be an invaluable asset to HRSA, the new Administration, and the nation. HPNEC is an alliance of national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring the health workforce is educated and trained to meet the needs of our diverse population.

As you know, Title VII and VIII programs improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health professions workforce, with an emphasis on primary care and interdisciplinary training. Through loans, loan guarantees and scholarships to students, and grants and contracts to academic institutions and non-profit organizations, the programs are designed to train providers to meet the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce. We are pleased that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the proposed FY 2009 omnibus appropriations bill take an important first step in reversing chronic underfunding of these essential programs. Many of the programs, however, did not receive significant increases and are still funded at levels much lower than they have been in previous years, despite recent evidence that they are effective tools. We are grateful to President Obama for his support for the health professions programs throughout his tenure in the Senate and during the presidential campaign; we also eagerly anticipate details of the Administration's proposal for an investment that "Strengthens the Health Professions Workforce," as outlined in the FY 2010 Budget Overview document.

We look forward to working with you to continue to reinvest in and revitalize the Title VII and VIII programs. Once again, congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
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 Association of Community Colleges
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Nurses Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Association for Radiologic & Imaging Nursing
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical 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 & Neonatal Nurses
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
HIV Medicine Association
National Area Health Education Centers Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Council for Diversity in Health Professions
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National Rural Health Association
North American Primary Care Research Group

Oncology Nursing Society
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for General Internal Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine