



June 24, 2013

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the over 60 members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), we write to thank you for supporting the Senate Appropriations Committee's FY 2014 allocation for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Subcommittee, which, as you know, provides funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce programs. HPNEC is an alliance of national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of our diverse population.

Titles VII and VIII are the only federal programs that seek to improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health professions, with a focus on primary care and interdisciplinary training. The programs, celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, continue to play a critical role in helping the health professions workforce adapt to meet the nation's changing health care needs. Further, as demand for health professionals grows in the face of impending shortages and a growing, aging population, continuing the investment in health professions workforce development will be key to ensuring access to high quality care for all populations. As a result of sequestration and other budget cuts, however, funding for the Title VII and Title VIII programs has fallen 14.9% in the last 3 years, limiting their capacity just when they are needed most.

HPNEC is grateful that the Senate's Labor-HHS allocation allows the subcommittee the opportunity to avert continued cuts to health, education, and labor programs, particularly in contrast to the House allocation that cuts funding by nearly 19 percent. We also recognize that realizing the Senate allocation in the final FY 2014 spending bill will require that Congress and the Administration achieve a balanced deficit reduction plan that replaces sequestration, rather than placing the burden on domestic discretionary programs such as Titles VII and VIII. HPNEC looks forward to working with you to prevent further cuts to essential federal priorities, such as health professions education and training.

Sincerely,

Tannaz Rasouli  
HPNEC Co-Director

Alex Khalife  
HPNEC Co-Director