



July 24, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

The undersigned organizations of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to thank you for recognizing the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII and Title VIII health professions education programs as a priority in the FY 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. 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.

We appreciate that the bill provides a \$137 million increase overall over the comparable FY 2009 level, and exceeds the President's budget by \$1.6 million. Though our individual organizations each prioritize specific programs under Title VII and Title VIII, as a coalition, we sincerely value this renewed commitment to HRSA's health professions programs.

As you know, these programs improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of health professionals nationwide. Despite recent evidence that they are effective tools, many of the programs have been funded at levels much lower than in previous years. We are truly grateful for your efforts to reinvest in the health professions and to begin reversing chronic underfunding of the programs. These efforts will be critical to help address existing and looming workforce shortages across health professions disciplines, particularly as the nation considers health care reform.

Once again, thank you for prioritizing a strengthened health workforce among the many important activities in the FY 2010 appropriations bill. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure the continuation of Congressional support for these critical programs that are necessary to preserving the health and well-being of the American people.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
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 Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Osteopathic Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
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 Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
College of American Pathologists
Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.
National League for Nursing
National Rural Health Association
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine