September 17, 2010

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

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Obey and Chairman Harkin:

The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) thanks you for your support of the Title VII and Title VIII health professions and nursing education programs and for making these important workforce programs a priority in your respective FY 2011 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bills. HPNEC is an alliance of more than 60 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 spending measures approved by the House subcommittee and Senate full committee include a substantial increase for the health professions and nursing education programs. As you know, these programs are vital components of the nation’s health care safety net, and only will become more important as the country’s population continues to age, more Americans seek health care services as a result of the Affordable Care Act, and health care workforce shortages continue to increase. By supporting the education and training of health professionals across disciplines, the Title VII and Title VIII programs help shape the workforce to respond to the nation’s most pressing health care challenges. Your leadership has been key to ensuring a strong, sustained investment in these valuable workforce programs as they improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of health care providers.

Once again, we sincerely thank you for your efforts and continued commitment to these critical programs and look forward to working with you throughout the remainder of the FY 2011 appropriations process.

Sincerely,
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 Medical Student Association
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Chiropractic Colleges
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Professors of Medicine
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
Community Campus Partnerships for Health
Council on Social Work Education
Health Professions Network
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
HIV Medicine Association
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Athletic Trainers Association
National Council on Diversity in the Health Professions
National League for Nursing
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two Year Colleges
National Rural Health Association
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Physician Assistant Education Association
Society for Teachers in Family Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine