



September 17, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Cole and Blunt and Ranking Members DeLauro and Murray:

The 54 undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to urge you to provide robust funding levels for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs as you finalize fiscal year (FY) 2016 appropriations. HPNEC is an informal 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 the country's growing, aging, and diverse population.

Titles VII and VIII are the only federally-funded programs that seek to improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health professions workforce, with an emphasis on primary care and interdisciplinary training. By providing educational and training opportunities to aspiring and practicing health professionals, the programs also play a critical role in helping the workforce adapt to meet the nation's changing health care needs. The programs continue to prepare health professionals for new care delivery models and emerging health care challenges, enhance the size and diversity of the health care workforce, and improve access to primary care for children, adults, and seniors. Moreover, in a recovering economy, Titles VII and VIII play an important role in guiding individuals to high-demand health care jobs, fulfilling both their individual career goals and a community's health needs.

HPNEC is grateful for your longstanding recognition of the role the health workforce plays in ensuring the well-being of the population. We urge you to provide the higher of the House Committee- and Senate Committee-approved funding levels for each Title VII and Title VIII program, but no less than the FY 2015 level for each program. Your continued support for the relatively modest investment in these programs is critical as budget cuts threaten to reverse

progress made in mitigating the nation's health care workforce challenges. We recognize the difficult choices you face in light of an inadequate subcommittee allocation; therefore, we hope lawmakers will work together to enact sequestration relief that increases the subcommittee allocation, as these essential programs cannot sustain further reductions.

We have a nation that is growing and becoming increasingly diverse. At a time when millions of Americans are accessing health care for the first time, it is crucial that our future health professionals have the necessary programs and resources to keep up with the rapidly growing and aging population. We urge you to ensure the next generation of health professionals is equipped to address the nation's health care complexities by providing robust funding for Titles VII and VIII in the final FY 2016 spending bill.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Association for Dental Research  
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 Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Physicians  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Association  
American Pediatric Society  
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 American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved  
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 Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities  
Council on Social Work Education  
Health Professions Network  
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools  
Movement is Life  
National AHEC Organization  
National Association for Geriatric Education Centers  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Physician Assistant Education Association  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine