



November 3, 2010

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

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

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) thank you for your leadership on behalf of the health professions and nursing education programs authorized under Title VII and Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act. The undersigned member organizations respectfully urge you to ensure that the final FY 2011 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill matches the highest level of support for the Title VII and Title VIII programs in the bills approved by the House subcommittee and the Senate full committee. HPNEC is grateful for the increases provided for many Title VII and Title VIII programs in the House and Senate bills and feels that fully funding these programs in FY 2011 is vital to meeting the health workforce needs of the country's most vulnerable populations.

As you know, the Title VII and Title VIII programs are the only federal programs dedicated to improving the supply, distribution, and diversity of the nation's health care workforce. While these programs play a key role in increasing access for the country's underserved communities, chronic underfunding has prevented the programs from operating at their full potential. A robust investment will support the education and training of hundreds of primary care physicians, nurses, dentists, allied health, public health, mental health, preventive medicine, and other health professionals to meet the ever-growing need. Strong support will ensure more minority and disadvantaged aspiring health professionals will have access to academic and financial assistance in pursuing health care careers. For the Title VII and Title VIII programs to continue on this trajectory, the final FY 2011 appropriations measure must include a strong investment for Title VII and Title VIII.



Again, HPNEC thanks you for your leadership on these important workforce programs and urges you to sustain the highest approved level of funding for the Title VII and Title VIII programs in the final FY 2011 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. We look forward to continuing to work with you on these programs.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
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 College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Student Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Public Health Association
American Psychological 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 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 Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
Council on Social Work Education
Health Professions Network
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
HIV Medicine Association
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Medical Minority Educators
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Physician Assistant Education Association
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine