



December 16, 2009

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
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Obey, Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Tiahrt, and Ranking Member Cochran:

The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition thanks you for your leadership in securing much needed funding increases for the Title VII and Title VIII health professions and nursing education programs. 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 Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3288) provides for a \$105 million increase in funding over FY 2009 levels. As you know, the Title VII and Title VIII programs are an invaluable component of the nationwide health care safety net, improving the supply, distribution and diversity of health professionals nationwide. They not only prepare aspiring professionals to meet a critical workforce need, but also help to improve the health of our nation. A sustained, stable investment in the health professions education programs will enable them to continue both to build much-needed capacity in health care workforce and to improve the health and well-being of the nation.

Once again, we thank you for your efforts and continued leadership in support of the Title VII and Title VIII programs and we look forward to working with you in FY 2011.

Sincerely,

Tannaz Rasouli
HPNEC Director