



December 17, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Members Shelby and Lowey:

As you finalize spending levels for FY 2014, the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) strongly urges you to provide the largest possible 302(b) allocation to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee. HPNEC is an informal alliance of more than 60 national organizations dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of the country's growing, aging, and diverse population.

The Labor-HHS bill funds the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs, which are the only federal programs focused on improving the supply, distribution, and diversity of the primary care workforce. As demand for health professionals grows in the face of impending shortages and a growing, aging population, providing the largest possible allocation will allow for the restoration of sequestration's harmful cuts to Titles VII and VIII. This critical investment will enable health professions programs nationwide to continue filling gaps in the health care workforce and ensure the nation's most vulnerable and underserved have access to quality care.

A robust Labor-HHS allocation will allow for some much needed reinvestment in our nation's eroding domestic priorities, including health professions training and education under Titles VII and VIII. We urge you to provide the highest possible 302(b) allocation for the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Tannaz Rasouli
HPNEC Co-Director

Alexandra Khalife
HPNEC Co-Director