



April 13, 2010

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

Attached please find the FY 2011 brochure of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), describing the health professions and nursing programs under Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act and their essential role in bringing health care to the nation's underserved communities. Additionally, the brochure cites numerous peer-reviewed studies illustrating how these programs are meeting their three-pronged goal of enhancing the supply, diversity, and distribution of the health professions workforce. HPNEC, an alliance of over 60 organizations (please see list on back of brochure) dedicated to bolstering the nation's health care workforce, recommends at least \$600 million to sustain and strengthen the existing Title VII and VIII programs in FY 2011. Implementation of the new health professions and nursing education programs authorized under the recently enacted Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148) will require additional investments.

The multi-year nature of health professions education and training, unprecedented existing and looming provider shortages across many disciplines, and the passage of health reform legislation that will increase the demand for health professionals necessitate a continued, reliable investment in the Title VII and Title VIII programs. While we understand that there are many competing priorities when considering the FY 2011 budget, it is essential that Congress renews its commitment to the health professions programs to aid in resolving systemic workforce shortages and to help deliver care to the country's most vulnerable communities.

Through student loans, loan guarantees, and scholarships to students, and grants and contracts to institutions, the Title VII and VIII programs seek to enhance health care services in underserved areas and increase minority representation across the health professions. They remain a critical element of the nation's health care safety net and will play an increasingly vital role in America's health care system as more people gain health care coverage through the implementation of health reform legislation. For these reasons, **we urge you to support full funding for the health professions programs in FY 2011.**

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org) or Shannon Curtis at [scurtis@aamc.org](mailto:scurtis@aamc.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tannaz Rasouli  
HPNEC Director