



February 3, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
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

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 Cochran, Rogers, Cole and Blunt, and Ranking Members Mikulski, Lowey, DeLauro and Murray:

The 49 undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to thank you for your leadership in crafting the FY 2016 omnibus spending package, which continued funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs. 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.

We appreciate that you worked in a bipartisan manner to pass a spending package that recognizes the importance of quality patient care and a diverse, well-trained health care workforce. These

programs help shape the workforce in targeted ways, such as promoting interprofessional, team-based care; promoting service in underserved areas; and filling other gaps in the health care workforce. As communities nationwide grapple with access challenges, we are pleased that you worked together to preserve the modest federal investment in HRSA's health professions education programs.

Funding for each of the Title VII and Title VIII programs is key to improving our nation's health as pressures on the workforce increase. 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 we enhance the federal commitment to the programs that equip the next generation of health professionals to keep up with the increasing health care challenges of a changing population.

Again, we commend you for your leadership in passing this crucial spending package, and we look forward to working with you to prioritize continued support for these programs that are critical to ensuring that the health care workforce meets the needs of all Americans.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
Academic Pediatric Association
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 Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Nurses Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric 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
Emergency Nurses Association
Movement is Life
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National League for Nursing
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two Year Colleges
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