



November 13, 2013

Dear Budget Conferee:

As you begin deliberations, the 54 undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to urge you to preserve investments in health professions workforce programs in FY 2014 and beyond. HPNEC is an informal alliance of national organizations dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of the country's growing, aging, and diverse population.

As you may know, the nation faces a shortage of health professionals across disciplines. To help mitigate these shortages, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce programs are designed to improve the supply, diversity, and distribution of the primary care workforce. However, sequestration and other cuts have limited the capacity of health professions workforce development programs at a time they are needed most. A recent HPNEC [fact sheet](#) outlines how cuts to these programs affect patients, students, and teaching faculty.

What's more, sequestration will constitute a decade's worth of mounting fiscal constraints, and programs that survive cuts in the initial years likely will struggle to remain viable in future years. Currently, many HRSA grantees leverage the modest federal investment to acquire support from states, academic institutions, communities, philanthropy, and other sources. Losing federal dollars may jeopardize programs' ability to secure these additional funding sources, further crippling efforts to address the nation's health care needs.

Both Congress and the administration have acknowledged the importance of increasing the size of the health care workforce and improving access to care for children, adults, and seniors. Title VII and VIII are the only federal programs focused on improving the capacity and distribution of the primary care workforce with an emphasis on interdisciplinary training and timely priorities, such as geriatrics training, mental and behavioral health training and reducing health disparities. Cuts to these programs will hamper their ability to meet these goals, and given their synergistic nature, cuts to any of the Title VII and Title VIII programs may reverse the progress that has been made to mitigate such challenges, particularly for the nation's underserved communities.

While we recognize the difficulties involved in achieving a bipartisan consensus on a budget plan, we urge you to work together to find a solution that does not include further cuts to the health professions workforce.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
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 Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
The American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Geriatrics Society
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
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 Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
Council on Social Work Education
Eldercare Workforce Alliance
Health Professions Network
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
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