



November 13, 2013

Dear Representative:

The 48 undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to thank you for your vote in favor of H.R. 2775 to reopen the federal government and raise the debt ceiling. Your vote helped avoid default and restored federal funding for many activities vital to the nation's health, including funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce programs. 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, and to help mitigate these shortages, Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce programs seek to improve the supply, diversity, and distribution of the primary care workforce. Your vote on H.R. 2775 allowed these important activities to continue and we strongly commend your decision to vote in favor. However, just as programs are resuming their work, the threat of sequestration in FY 2014 limits the programs' capacity to meet these aims and improve access to care. What's more, without a solution, sequestration will continue to erode federal investments in the health professions workforce over the next decade, at the same time the country's workforce challenges heighten.

Sequestration is unworkable, and no amount of flexibility, carve outs, or piecemeal fixes will make it so. We urge Congress and the Administration to put politics aside and work together; otherwise, sequestration will only reverse progress made to date by Titles VII and VIII, hampering their ability to improve access to care for the nation's children, adults, seniors, and most vulnerable.

Please stand strong, and build on your bipartisan support of H.R. 2775 to support a responsible FY 2014 budget that replaces sequestration.

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 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 Pediatric Society  
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 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  
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