The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on LHHS  
Committee on Appropriations  
2358-B Rayburn HOB  
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on LHHS  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the fiscal year FY 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to support the nation’s health care workforce by including $280 million for the Title VII health professions programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). As you know, these programs provide direct financial support for health care workforce development and education. Further, with a focus on primary care and training in interdisciplinary, community-based settings, they are the only federal programs designed to fill gaps in the supply of health professionals, respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, and increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

Since their inception in 1963, the programs have helped the workforce adapt to the nation’s changing health care needs. Today, the programs help strengthen the supply of primary care professionals, expand access to care in rural and urban underserved areas, and work to develop a workforce that reflects the nation’s increasing diversity. Within this framework, the programs help advance timely priorities, such as strengthening education and training opportunities in geriatrics to better care for the nation’s aging population and working to close the gap in access to mental and behavioral health care services by bolstering the supply of mental and behavioral health providers.

At a time when the country is facing unprecedented provider shortages, as well as a rapidly growing and aging population, a strong commitment to the Title VII programs is necessary. Sustained support for these programs will ensure that the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce continue to improve and that the workforce is prepared to meet the country’s evolving and emerging health care needs. We respectfully urge you to make the
nation’s next generation of health professionals a priority with a strong investment in the Title VII programs in the FY 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Sam Farr
Steve Chabot
Juan Vargas
Alcee L. Hastings
Charles B. Rangel
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
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