Representative David Obey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Todd Tiahrt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 22, 2010

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, we urge you to increase funding for the Title VII health professions programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to $330 million. As you know, these programs provide direct financial support for health care workforce development and education. In addition, they are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

Since inception, the Title VII programs have helped increase the supply of primary care professionals, have worked to expand access to care in rural and urban underserved areas, and have increased diversity across health disciplines. However, these programs have been plagued by chronic underfunding. At a time when the nation is facing unprecedented provider shortages, a robust investment in the Title VII programs is necessary, and anything less may have a devastating impact on the country’s neediest communities. A strong commitment to these programs will ensure that the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce continues to improve and is able to meet the country’s evolving and emerging health care needs.

We respectfully urge you to provide $330 million for the Title VII programs in the FY 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

David Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Paul W. Hodes  
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Earl Pomeroy  
Member of Congress
Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress

Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress