



September 26, 2017

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 Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), I write to thank you for supporting the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs in the Senate Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2018 (S. 1771). HPNEC is an alliance of more than 60 national organizations representing communities, health professions, schools, and students, who are dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of our country's diverse and aging population.

HRSA Title VII and VIII programs have a long history of filling gaps not addressed by other workforce channels. The Senate's bipartisan spending bill continues an important investment in disadvantaged and underrepresented students who are more likely to return to rural and other underserved communities to provide health care, increasing access in rural, urban, frontier, and other underserved communities. These programs also work to increase the cultural competency and diversity of the health care workforce, improving patient satisfaction and quality of care for the nation's most vulnerable populations.

As you know, the programs of Titles VII and VIII play a critical role in shaping the workforce to respond to the nation's current and most pressing health care needs. The Senate bill helps support HRSA programs that train health practitioners in high-demand specialties, including those that provide treatment for opioid use disorders and geriatric specific care. The bill also provides funding for HRSA public health and preventive medicine programs, which support public health focused clinical training and help prepare the workforce to deal with threats like Zika and Ebola.

We applaud the Senate for supporting the full range of health professions programs under Titles VII and VIII, which will continue the efforts our country has made to fill workforce gaps with health care professionals who are adequately prepared to treat the nation's changing population and health needs. Thank you again for your support of the Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs. We look forward to working with you on ways

to continue to support the health workforce in future. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 202-862-6082 or [thanson@aamc.org](mailto:thanson@aamc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tyler Hanson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Tyler Hanson, JD  
HPNEC Executive Director