



October 30, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Pelosi, and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), thank you for your ongoing leadership in support of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs. As Congress finalizes fiscal year (FY) 2018 spending, we write to urge enactment of a bicameral, bipartisan budget agreement that raises the non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending cap and enables the \$551 million investment in HRSA Title VII and VIII programs approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee earlier this year.

HPNEC is an alliance of over 60 national organizations representing schools, programs, communities, health professionals, and students that are dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the evolving health needs of the country. As you know, Title VII and VIII programs increase the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health care workforce and improve access to primary care for children and families living on low incomes, veterans, older adults, and other disadvantaged populations. Collectively, these programs help shape the workforce in targeted ways by promoting service in underserved areas and filling workforce gaps that affect the nation's most vulnerable communities.

While both the House and Senate FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor-HHS) funding bills recognize the Title VII and VIII programs as important federal investments, the Senate's bill provides funding at a level closer to HPNEC's FY 2018 recommendation of \$580 million. Preparing health professionals — in school or in the field — to address the nation's current and emerging public health concerns, such as opioid use disorders, requires a sustained commitment to the Title VII and VIII programs. The \$551 million provided in the Senate Labor-HHS bill would allow these programs to continue their ongoing missions and help ensure patients can access the quality care they need.

We are concerned, however, that without relief from sequestration, final funding for critical programs under Title VII and VIII may be greatly impacted. As our country faces a growing provider shortage, an aging and diversifying population with unique health needs, and public health threats like natural disasters

and the opioid crisis, we must continue to invest in workforce programs that recruit, support, and train health professionals who are able to respond to these pressing concerns.

As you work to finalize FY 2018 appropriations, we respectfully urge you to develop a bipartisan solution that eases the NDD cap and prioritizes support for HRSA Title VII and VIII programs to ensure the health care workforce meets the needs of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of PAs  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Dental Research  
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  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Pediatric Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association for Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Chiropractic 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 Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses  
Council on Social Work Education  
Eldercare Workforce Alliance  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools  
HIV Medicine Association  
International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium  
National AHEC Organization  
National Association for Geriatric Education  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Athletic Trainer's Association  
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Physician Assistant Education Association  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine