



HPNEC Statement on the Proposed Senate FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill

Washington, D.C., September 18, 2019—*The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) Executive Director Matthew Shick, JD, issued the following statement on the Senate fiscal year (FY) 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) spending bill, which allocates funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs:*

“HPNEC is disappointed by the \$8 million decrease in funding for the HRSA Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs proposed by the Senate Appropriations Committee. With the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act, Senators have the ability to help vulnerable patients by continuing to invest in the supply, distribution, and diversity of our nation’s health care workforce.

We are concerned with the Committee’s failure to increase investment across the board for HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs—allocating \$96 million less than the House of Representatives approved in June. Specifically, we are extremely discouraged by the proposal to eliminate the Health Careers and Opportunity Program (HCOP). Last year alone, HCOP recruited nearly 3,000 students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are more likely to practice in rural and other underserved localities as health professionals.

HPNEC urges the Senate and House of Representatives to work in a bipartisan manner to secure sustained, meaningful funding for the Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs. We also urge Congress and the White House to work together to pass Labor-HHS appropriations for FY 2020, ensuring that patients who benefit from these programs are not negatively impacted by a lapse in funding.”

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The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) is an alliance of 70 national organizations representing schools, students, health professionals, and communities dedicated to ensuring that the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of our diverse population. Together, the members of HPNEC advocate for adequate and continued support for the health professions and nursing workforce development programs authorized under Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act and administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Additional information about HPNEC is available at <https://www.aamc.org/advocacy/hpniec/>.