



November 24, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chair  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chair  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chair  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Shelby, Chair Lowey, Vice Chair Leahy, and Ranking Member Granger:

On behalf of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), I write to restate the coalition's recommendation of \$790 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs for fiscal year (FY) 2021.

HPNEC is an alliance of over 80 national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to training our nation's health care workforce to meet the needs of our 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 HRSA.

The federal investment in training future providers and testing new models of care is paramount in addressing public health crises. The HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs play an essential role in training and preparing members of our health workforce who are at the forefront of fighting COVID-19. The programs develop our workforce by using innovative approaches of interprofessional care and telehealth, which are vital in caring for our most vulnerable populations nationwide.

HPNEC appreciates the proposed increases to Title VII and Title VIII in the House and Senate Labor-HHS bills. However, **we oppose the Senate's proposed elimination of \$15 million for the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP)** and urge Congress to fund all previously appropriated Title VII and Title VIII programs.

The Titles VII and VIII programs help ensure a culturally competent workforce to meet our growing population's needs, especially those from underrepresented minority, rural, geriatric, veteran, and other economically or educationally disadvantaged communities. Eliminating any of the programs could reduce the supply of health providers for these vulnerable populations.

We also continue to recommend that Congress provides at least \$367 million in no-year supplemental emergency funding without expiration for Title VII and Title VIII in the next COVID-19 relief bill. With the programs structured to address health threats in all communities, this additional funding will ensure that our nation's health workforce is positioned to continue fighting COVID-19, as well as future public health crises.

As our nation continues to face public health challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the U.S. health workforce is equipped to address the nation's health care complexities is more critical now than ever. **HPNEC urges you to provide \$790 million for Titles VII and VIII in FY 2021 and fund all existing programs** to continue Congress' sustained investment in our health workforce.

If you have any questions, please contact do not hesitate to contact me or Brett Roude at [broude@aamc.org](mailto:broude@aamc.org) or 202-753-5726.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Shick  
Executive Director

Cc: United States House of Representatives  
Cc: United States Senate

## Members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition

Academic Pediatric Association  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry  
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 Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Medical Student Association  
American Music Therapy Association  
American Neurological Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Organization for Nursing Leadership  
American Pediatric Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Surgical Association  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
Association of American Indian Physicians  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology  
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 Advancing Health Professions  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
Association of University Professors of Neurology  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council on Social Work Education  
Eldercare Workforce Alliance  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Health Professions Network  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacist Association  
International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium  
National AHEC Organization  
National Association for Geriatric Education  
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Athletic Trainers' Association  
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National League of Nursing  
National Medical Association  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Physician Assistant Education Association  
Pre-Health Dreamers  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
Student National Medical Association