



November 22, 2021

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

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
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 Leahy, Chair DeLauro, Vice Chair Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger:

On behalf of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), I write to urge Congress to **provide at least the House-passed level of \$980 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs for fiscal year (FY) 2022**. The House-passed levels are an essential first step in achieving HPNEC's recommendation of providing \$1.51 billion for the Titles VII and VIII programs

HPNEC also urges members to finalize the FY 2022 spending packages as soon as possible and avoid additional continuing resolutions. We remain concerned that current funding levels for the chronically underfunded HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs will hinder our nation's ability to educate current and future providers to serve the needs of all patients.

HPNEC is an alliance of over 90 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 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 COVID-19 pandemic has pulled back the curtain on the health inequities facing patients across the country, including those from diverse, economically disadvantaged, and rural backgrounds. To ensure that all patients receive quality care health care providers must be able to appropriately treat patients from all backgrounds to meet the needs of the high-risk communities.

The HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs have proven successful in recruiting, training, and supporting public health practitioners, nurses, geriatricians, mental health providers, and other front-line health care workers critical to addressing COVID-19. In addition, many of the programs target participants from diverse, economically disadvantaged, and rural backgrounds. Establishing a health workforce with providers from these backgrounds improves patients' access to care and satisfaction and bettering health professions learning environments.

Additionally, we need to make sure that our health care system meets the ever-changing needs of patients across the country. Through developing new curriculum to address emerging public health crises, such as substance use disorders, or collaborating with community leaders in educating providers to deliver culturally competent care, to utilizing telehealth as a way to connect with patients, the Title VII and Title VIII programs help ensure our health workforce is at the forefront of new health care delivery systems and models of care.

Congress must increase investment in the Title VII and Title VIII programs to combat pervasive health inequities as seen in the COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare the health workforce for the health care demands of tomorrow. To that end, **HPNEC urges you to provide at least the House passed values of \$980 million for Titles VII and VIII in FY 2022** to ensure our health workforce meets the needs of all patients.

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: House of Representatives Appropriations Committee  
Cc: States Appropriations Committee

Members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition

Academic Consortium for Integrative  
Medicine & Health  
Academic Pediatric Association  
Allergy & Asthma Network  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
(AAIM)  
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and  
Immunology  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Hospice and  
Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of PAs  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association of Chairs of  
Departments of Psychiatry  
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 Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Federation of Teachers  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Medical Student Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Music Therapy Association

American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy  
Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory  
Science  
American Society for Reproductive  
Medicine (ASRM)  
American Surgical Association  
America's Essential Hospitals  
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 Pathology Chairs  
Association of Psychologists in Academic  
Health Centers  
Association of Public and Land-grant  
Universities  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of Schools Advancing Health  
Professions  
Association of Schools Advancing Health  
Professions

Association of Schools and Colleges of  
Optometry  
Association of University Professors of  
Ophthalmology  
CAEAR Coalition  
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic  
Pharmacists (CPNP)  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council on Social Work Education  
Eldercare Workforce Alliance  
Health Professions Network  
Heart Failure Society of America  
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy  
Association (HOPA)  
HIV Medicine Association  
Latino Medical Student Association  
National AHEC Organization  
National Association for Geriatric Education  
National Association of Community Health  
Centers  
National Association of Geriatric Education  
Centers  
National Association of Nurse Practitioner's  
in Women's Health (NPWH)  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse  
Practitioners  
National Athletic Trainers' Association  
National Council for Diversity in Health  
Professions  
National Family Planning & Reproductive  
Health Association  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Medical Association  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
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 Behavioral Medicine  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
Student National Medical Association (SNMA)