



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