

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration

c/o American Public Health Association

www.friendsofhrsa.org

December 3, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwomen DeLauro and Murray and Ranking Members Cole and Blunt:

The undersigned 58 members of the Friends of HRSA coalition and other supporting organizations recommend providing at least the Senate-proposed level of **\$8.84 billion for discretionary Health Resources and Services Administration programs in the FY 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill**. We truly appreciate your support for HRSA and for the significant increases provided in both the House and Senate versions of the FY 2022 appropriations bill. Strong funding for HRSA is critical to supporting all of HRSA's activities and programs, which are essential to protect the health of our communities. Due to years of underfunding, many HRSA programs have not received the funding that is needed to address the many health challenges we face as a nation, limiting their ability to provide communities with the support, care and workforce that they depend on. Additional funding will allow HRSA to fill preventive and primary health care gaps, support the urgent and long-term public health workforce needs and build upon the achievements of HRSA's more than 90 programs and more than 3,000 grantees. We also believe that it is critical for Congress to quickly finalize the FY 2022 appropriations process to avoid lengthy continuing resolutions that bring uncertainty and make it more difficult for the agency and its grantees to protect the public's health.

Friends of HRSA is a nonpartisan coalition of national organizations representing public health and health care professionals, academicians, and consumers invested in HRSA's mission to improve health and achieve health equity. The coalition advocates for strengthening funding levels for HRSA's discretionary budget authority to enable the agency to keep pace with the persistent and changing health demands of the nation's growing, aging and diversifying population and constantly evolving public health and health care system.

HRSA is a national leader in improving the health of Americans by addressing the supply, distribution and diversity of health professionals, supporting training in contemporary public health practices and providing quality health services to the nation's most vulnerable populations. This includes people living with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, mothers and their families and those otherwise unable to access high quality health care. HRSA also oversees

organ, bone marrow and cord blood donation, compensates individuals harmed by vaccination and maintains databases that protect against health care malpractice, waste, fraud and abuse.

Investing in programs that keep people healthy is important for the vitality of our nation. HRSA programs have been successful in improving the health of people at highest risk for poor health outcomes. The agency supports efforts that increase access to quality care, better leverage existing investments and achieve improved health outcomes at a lower cost. For example:

- HRSA supports nearly 13,000 community health centers which provide high quality primary care services to nearly 30 million people and reduce barriers such as cost, lack of insurance, distance and language for their patients.
- HRSA supports the health workforce across the entire training continuum by strengthening the workforce and connecting skilled professionals to communities in need. Programs such as the Public Health Training Centers assess and respond to critical workforce needs through training, technical assistance and student support.
- HRSA's Maternal and Child Health programs support patient-centered, evidence-based programs that optimize health, minimize disparities and improve health promotion and health care access for medically and economically vulnerable women, infants and children.
- HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides medical care and treatment services to over half a million people living with HIV. Ryan White programs effectively engage clients in comprehensive care and treatment, including increasing access to HIV medication, which has resulted in 88.1% of clients achieving viral suppression, compared to just 64.7% of all people living with HIV nationwide.
- HRSA supports healthcare systems and programs that increase access and availability of lifesaving bone marrow, cord blood and donor organs for transplantation. Additionally, the Healthcare Systems Bureau supports poison control centers, which contribute to significantly decreasing a patient's length of stay in a hospital and save the federal government \$1.8 billion each year in medical costs and lost productivity.
- HRSA supports community- and state-based solutions to improve rural community health by focusing on quality improvement, increasing health care access, coordination of care and integration of services that are uniquely designed to meet the needs of rural communities.
- The Title X Family Planning program reduces unintended pregnancy rates, limits transmission of sexually transmitted infections and increases early detection of breast and cervical cancer by ensuring access to family planning and related preventive health services to millions of women, men and adolescents.
- HRSA also supports training, technical assistance and resource development to assist public health and health care professionals to better serve individuals and communities impacted by intimate partner violence.
- HRSA is well positioned to respond to infectious disease outbreaks and has been active in the COVID-19 pandemic response, awarding billions of dollars to health centers to administer COVID-19 tests and reimbursing providers who offer COVID-19 care to uninsured individuals.

The nation faces a shortage of health professionals and a growing and aging population which will demand more health care. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic reaffirmed the critical nature of a robust workforce in responding to public health emergencies. HRSA is well positioned to address these issues and to continue building on the agency's many successes, but a

stronger commitment of resources is necessary to effectively do so. We urge you to consider HRSA's central role in strengthening the nation's health and support a funding level of at least \$8.84 billion for HRSA's discretionary budget authority in FY 2022.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Physicians
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Liver Foundation
American Medical Student Association
American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Addiction Medicine
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools (AMHPS)
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Big Cities Health Coalition
CAEAR Coalition
Futures Without Violence
Healthy Kinder International, LLC
Healthy Teen Network
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
Morehouse School of Medicine
NASTAD
National AHEC Organization (NAO)
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Black Nurses Association
National Council for Diversity in Health Professions (NCDHP)
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National League for Nursing

National Marrow Donor Program/ Be The Match
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
Ohio Public Health Association
Oncology Nursing Society
Physician Assistant Education Association
Prevent Blindness
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
School-Based Health Alliance
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Public Health Education
The AIDS Institute
The Gerontological Society of America
Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO)
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine

Cc: House Appropriations Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee