

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration
c/o American Public Health Association
www.friendsofhrsa.org

March 26, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Kingston
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Kingston and Ranking Members Moran and DeLauro:

The undersigned members of the Friends of HRSA urge you to restore funding for discretionary Health Resources and Services Administration programs to the FY 2010 level of \$7.48 billion in the FY 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Friends of HRSA is a coalition of [170 national organizations](http://www.friendsofhrsa.org) dedicated to improving health through supporting a well prepared workforce and the delivery of high-quality health services. The programs administered by HRSA serve the health needs of people who are medically underserved, low-income and geographically isolated in every state and U.S. territory.

We are deeply concerned that since FY 2010, HRSA's discretionary budget authority has been cut by 19 percent in nominal dollars and 25 percent when adjusted for inflation. Our nation's ability to deliver essential public health services and a capable public health workforce are essential for a healthy and thriving population that can translate into a productive workforce and reduced health care costs. While the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 provided modest and temporary relief from sequestration, austerity measures remain firmly in place.

The nation is facing a shortage of health professionals. As health coverage increases, and the nation experiences a growing, aging and more diverse population, alongside health professionals nearing retirement age, it is ever more critical to make investments that improve access and promote a high-performing workforce capable of meeting the increased and changing demands.

HRSA efficiently serves high-need rural and urban communities that experience persistent workforce shortages and lack access to care. HRSA has contributed to the decrease in infant mortality rate, a widely used indicator of the nation's health, which is now at an all-time low, and helped to reduce the gap that exists between racial groups. The agency carries out critical public health programs that reach millions of Americans, including: providing primary care services to more than 21 million people; providing training and support for health professionals; supporting maternal and child health programs that serve over 43 million vulnerable women and children; serving about half of the 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing new HIV infections; and ensuring access to family planning services to over 5 million poor and low-income women, men and adolescents.

Additionally, funding for multiple mandatory programs is slated to expire soon and accounts for nearly one-third of HRSA's total program level. The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program expires in September. The National Health Service Corps Fund and Community Health Center Fund are both set to expire at the end of FY 2015. In the absence of continued mandatory funding for these programs, the committee must address these shortfalls in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill to ensure HRSA's ability to keep people healthy and effectively treat illness or injury.

We urge you to consider HRSA's central role in strengthening the nation's health and restore HRSA's discretionary budget authority to the FY 2010 level of \$7.48 billion.

For any questions, please feel free to contact Nicole Burda, American Public Health Association, at Nicole.burda@apha.org or 202-777-2513.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
ACRIA (AIDS Community Research Initiative of America)
African Services Committee
AIDS Foundation Chicago
AIDS Project Los Angeles
Alliance for a Just Society
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Education Association
American Medical Student Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Transplantation
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association for Prevention and Teaching Research
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of Accredited Public Health Programs
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Asian Pacific Community Organizations
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Boston Public Health Commission
California Center for Rural Policy
C-Change
Center for Women Policy Studies
Centering Healthcare Institute
Children's Hospital Association
Coalition for Health Funding
Community Action Partnership
Community Catalyst
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Council on Social Work Education
Disability Policy Consortium
Easter Seals
Family Voices
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
Health and Medicine Counsel of Washington
HealthHIV
Healthy Kinder
Healthy Teen Network
Hispanic Dental Association
HIV Medicine Association
HMS – Center for Health Innovation
International Association of Forensic Nurses
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
March of Dimes
Morehouse School of Medicine
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
National Black Nurses Association
National Board of Certified Counselors, Inc. and Affiliates
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council on Diversity in the Health Professions

National Disability Rights Network
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Immigration Law Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National League for Nursing
New York State Bleeding Disorders Coalition
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Pacific Pride Foundation
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Pre-Health Dreamers
Prevent Blindness America
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at University of New Mexico
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Social Medicine and Community Health
Society for Public Health Education
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
The AIDS Institute
University of New Mexico
University of Texas El Paso
University of Texas Houston

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee
House Appropriations Committee