



March 21, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The 46 undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to recommend \$524 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs in the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill. Additionally, because HRSA has been administering the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program, we also support the President's FY 2017 budget proposal of shifting funds previously appropriated to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to HRSA. HPNEC is an alliance of national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of our diverse population.

Title VII and Title VIII are the only federally-funded programs that seek to improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health professions workforce, with a focus on primary care and interdisciplinary training. These programs help shape the workforce in targeted ways, such as promoting interprofessional, team-based care; promoting service in underserved areas; and filling other gaps in the health care workforce.

Moreover, we have a nation that is growing and becoming increasingly diverse. At a time when millions of Americans are accessing health care for the first time, it is crucial that we enhance the federal commitment to the programs that equip the next generation of health professionals to keep up with the increasing health care challenges of a changing population.

While HPNEC recognizes the challenges you face in the constrained budget environment, we urge you to ensure the next generation of health professionals is equipped to address the nation's health care

complexities by providing \$524 million for Titles VII and VIII in FY 2017, and providing BHWET funding directly to HRSA.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
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 Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Pediatric Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical 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 (AMHPS)
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
Council on Social Work Education
Emergency Nurses Association
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National League for Nursing
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two Year Colleges
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