

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Representative David Obey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education and Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Representative James Walsh
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education and Related Agencies
Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh:

As you begin your work on the fiscal year (FY) 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to increase funding for Title VII health professionals funding to the amount appropriated in FY 2005 (approximately \$299,552,000). As you well know, these programs provide direct financial support for health care workforce development and education. In addition, they are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

The FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill dramatically reduced funding for Title VII health professions programs, resulting in a 51 percent overall cut below FY 2005. These funding levels were continued for the remainder of FY 2007 in the recently passed continuing resolution. At a time of serious health professions shortages, reducing this resource has already had devastating effects to the country's neediest communities. By restoring funding to these programs to FY 2005 levels, you will enable them to continue to improve the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce.

We respectfully urge you to restore funding to the Title VII programs in the FY 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Cris M

John B

Jim McE

Wm. Jay Clay

John Lewis

Mark

Doris O. Matsui

Jim Langevin

M

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Thomas Price

Ben H

Chuck G. B

Ron Paul

Stephen D. H

Phil Gingrey

Zoe L

HW R

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Norm Dicks

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| Waxman, Henry | D | CA |
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