

# Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

c/o American Public Health Association  
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Washington DC, 20016  
202-777-2513

March 22, 2012

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

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, HHS and Education  
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Denny Rehberg  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, HHS and Education  
2358B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, HHS and Education  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Rehberg and Ranking Member Shelby and DeLauro:

**The undersigned members of the Friends of HRSA coalition urge you to provide at least \$7.0 billion for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the FY 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.**

While we recognize the reality of the current fiscal climate, our request of \$7.0 billion represents the minimum amount necessary for HRSA to continue to meet the health care needs of the American public. Over the past several years, HRSA has received significant reductions in funding, undermining the ability of its successful programs to grow. Our requested minimum level of funding will allow the agency to carry out critical public health programs and services that reach millions of Americans, including training for public health and health care professionals, providing primary care services through community health centers, improving access to care for rural communities, supporting maternal and child health care programs, providing health care to people living with HIV/AIDS, and many more. However, much more is needed for the agency to achieve its ultimate mission of ensuring access to culturally competent, quality health services; eliminating health disparities; and rebuilding the public health and health care infrastructure.

The Friends of HRSA coalition is a non-profit and non-partisan alliance of national organizations, collectively representing millions of public health and health care professionals, academicians and consumers. The coalition's principal goal is to ensure that HRSA's broad health programs receive the support necessary to reach the populations presently underserved by the nation's patchwork of health services.

HRSA operates programs in every state and thousands of communities across the country and is a national leader in providing health services for individuals and families. The agency serves as a health safety net for the medically underserved, including the nearly 50 million Americans who were

uninsured in 2010 and 50 million Americans who live in neighborhoods where primary health care services are scarce.

Greater investment is necessary to sufficiently fund HRSA services and programs that continue to face increasing demands. We urge you to consider HRSA's role in building the foundation for health service delivery and ensuring that vulnerable populations receive quality health services, while continuing to strengthen our nation's health safety net programs. By supporting, planning for and adapting to change within our health care system, we can build on the successes of the past and address new gaps that may emerge in the future.

We are grateful for your support in the past and **urge you to support a funding level of \$7.0 billion for HRSA in FY 2013.**

Sincerely,

AcademyHealth  
AIDS Project Los Angeles  
AIDS United  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Poison Control Centers  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Hospital Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of Accredited Public Health Programs  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved  
Association of Departments of Family Medicine  
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science  
Children's Home Society of America  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Council on Social Work Education  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Family Voices  
HIV Medicine Association  
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)  
March of Dimes  
Meharry Medical College  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
National AHEC Organization  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Assembly on School-Based Health Care  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National League for Nursing  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
The AIDS Institute  
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee  
House Appropriations Committee