



January 28, 2011

Dear Member of Congress:

The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) would like to congratulate you on the start of the 112th Congress. HPNEC is an alliance of over 60 national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring the nation's health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of our diverse populations. As you finalize FY 2011 appropriations, we encourage you to prioritize the nation's health care workforce through a strong investment in the Health Resources and Services Administration's health professions programs, authorized under Title VII and Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act.

The Title VII and Title VIII health professions and nursing programs provide education and training opportunities to a wide variety of health care professionals, both preparing them for career opportunities in the health professions and helping to bring health care services to our rural and underserved communities. The Title VII and Title VIII programs are the only federal programs designed to train health care providers in interdisciplinary settings to meet the needs of the country's special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

By improving the supply, distribution, and diversity of the nation's health care professionals, the Title VII and Title VIII programs not only prepare aspiring professionals to meet the nation's workforce needs, but also help to improve access to care across all populations. The multi-year nature of health professions education and training, coupled with unprecedented existing and looming provider shortages across many disciplines and in many rural and underserved communities, necessitate a strong, continued, and reliable investment in the Title VII and Title VIII programs.

We recognize the fiscal difficulties facing the nation and we urge you to support the Title VII and Title VIII health professions programs. An investment in these programs is not only an investment in the future of the health workforce, but in the future health and productivity of the nation. Providing adequate funding for Titles VII and VIII not only will help improve patient care, but also will prepare individuals for careers in the health professions and fill vacancies where it's most needed. We wish you the best during the 112th Congress and look forward to working with you on these important programs.

Sincerely,



Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
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 College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Nurses Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Radiologic Technologists
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
Council on Social Work Education
Health Professions Network
HIV Medicine Association
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium
National Association of Minority Medical Educators, Inc.
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges

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North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Physician Assistant Education Association
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine