

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

c/o American Public Health Association
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Washington DC, 20016
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April 6, 2011

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 Dennis 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 Chairman Harkin, Chairman Rehberg, Ranking Member Shelby and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The undersigned members of the Friends of HRSA coalition urge you to provide at least \$7.65 billion for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in FY 2012 in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

While we recognize the reality of the current fiscal climate, our request of \$7.65 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 mostly level funding, undermining the ability of its successful programs to grow. The 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 more than 180 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 50 million Americans who were uninsured in 2009 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 \$7.65 billion for HRSA in FY 2012.**

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Project Los Angeles
AIDS United
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
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 for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Heart Association
American Medical Student Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
Association of Academic Health Centers
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 & Child Health Programs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (CAADAC)
California Foundation for the Advancement of Addiction Professionals (CFAAP)
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
Coalition for Health Services Research
Coalition for Health Funding
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Council of Accredited MPH Programs
Council of Women's and Infants' Specialty Hospitals
Council on Social Work Education
Easter Seals
Emergency Nurses Association
Family Voices
Howard University Health Sciences
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)
Meharry Medical College
Morehouse School of Medicine
March of Dimes
NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders
National Association of Children's Hospitals
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
National Black Nurses Association
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Disability Rights Network
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Network of Public Health Institutes
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Prevent Blindness America
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition

Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
The AIDS Institute

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee
House Appropriations Committee