



November 4, 2011

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

The 46 undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to urge full funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing programs in the final FY 2012 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill. HPNEC strongly recommends continuing appropriations for all Title VII and VIII programs at no less than their FY 2011 levels.

HPNEC is gravely concerned that proposed Title VII and VIII program eliminations and drastic reductions will severely undermine efforts to shape the health care workforce supply to meet the rising demand. Since 1963, the programs have demonstrated effectiveness in preparing the health care workforce to adapt and respond to the country's changing needs. As the only federal programs focused on filling the gaps in the supply of health professionals not met by traditional market forces, their elimination would aggravate challenges in boosting the supply of primary care practitioners, increasing diversity of the workforce, and improving the distribution of health professionals. Worse, loss of funding for the programs would reverse the progress to date in mitigating such challenges, particularly for special and underserved communities.

The population is growing, aging, and becoming increasingly diverse. Residents of underserved rural and urban areas alike already struggle to find health providers. We urge you to ensure the next generation of health professionals is equipped to address these health care complexities by prioritizing funding for the health professions programs as you finalize Labor-HHS-Education appropriations for FY 2012.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association (APA)  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy  
American Association for Respiratory Care-AARC  
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 Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Education Association  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Osteopathic Association (AOA)  
American Pediatric Society (APS)  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
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 Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Council on Social Work Education  
Health Professions Network  
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools (HSHPS)  
HIV Medicine Association  
National AHEC Organization (NAO)  
National Association for Geriatric Education  
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers  
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions (NCDHP)  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Hispanic Health Foundation  
National League for Nursing  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Physician Assistant Education Association  
Society for Pediatric Research (SPR)  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine