

**Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration**  
c/o American Public Health Association  
[www.friendsofhrsa.org](http://www.friendsofhrsa.org)

March 26, 2014

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

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, HHS and Education  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, HHS and Education  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, HHS and Education  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Kingston and Ranking Members Moran and DeLauro:

The undersigned members of the Friends of HRSA urge you to restore funding for discretionary Health Resources and Services Administration programs to the FY 2010 level of \$7.48 billion in the FY 2015 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Friends of HRSA is a coalition of [170 national organizations](#) dedicated to improving health through supporting a well prepared workforce and the delivery of high-quality health services. The programs administered by HRSA serve the health needs of people who are medically underserved, low-income and geographically isolated in every state and U.S. territory.

We are deeply concerned that since FY 2010, HRSA's discretionary budget authority has been cut by 19 percent in nominal dollars and 25 percent when adjusted for inflation. Our nation's ability to deliver essential public health services and a capable public health workforce are essential for a healthy and thriving population that can translate into a productive workforce and reduced health care costs. While the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 provided modest and temporary relief from sequestration, austerity measures remain firmly in place.

The nation is facing a shortage of health professionals. As health coverage increases, and the nation experiences a growing, aging and more diverse population, alongside health professionals nearing retirement age, it is ever more critical to make investments that improve access and promote a high-performing workforce capable of meeting the increased and changing demands.

HRSA efficiently serves high-need rural and urban communities that experience persistent workforce shortages and lack access to care. HRSA has contributed to the decrease in infant mortality rate, a widely used indicator of the nation's health, which is now at an all-time low, and helped to reduce the gap that exists between racial groups. The agency carries out critical public health programs that reach millions of Americans, including: providing primary care services to more than 21 million people; providing training and support for health professionals; supporting maternal and child health programs that serve over 43 million vulnerable women and children; serving about half of the 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing new HIV infections; and ensuring access to family planning services to over 5 million poor and low-income women, men and adolescents.

Additionally, funding for multiple mandatory programs is slated to expire soon and accounts for nearly one-third of HRSA's total program level. The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program expires in September. The National Health Service Corps Fund and Community Health Center Fund are both set to expire at the end of FY 2015. In the absence of continued mandatory funding for these programs, the committee must address these shortfalls in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill to ensure HRSA's ability to keep people healthy and effectively treat illness or injury.

We urge you to consider HRSA's central role in strengthening the nation's health and restore HRSA's discretionary budget authority to the FY 2010 level of \$7.48 billion.

For any questions, please feel free to contact Nicole Burda, American Public Health Association, at [Nicole.burda@apha.org](mailto:Nicole.burda@apha.org) or 202-777-2513.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
ACRIA (AIDS Community Research Initiative of America)  
African Services Committee  
AIDS Foundation Chicago  
AIDS Project Los Angeles  
Alliance for a Just Society  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Dental Education Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society of Transplantation  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association for Prevention and Teaching Research  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of Accredited Public Health Programs  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Organizations  
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 of Organ Procurement Organizations  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Boston Public Health Commission  
California Center for Rural Policy  
C-Change  
Center for Women Policy Studies  
Centering Healthcare Institute  
Children's Hospital Association  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Community Action Partnership  
Community Catalyst  
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Council on Social Work Education  
Disability Policy Consortium  
Easter Seals  
Family Voices  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality  
Health and Medicine Counsel of Washington  
HealthHIV  
Healthy Kinder  
Healthy Teen Network  
Hispanic Dental Association  
HIV Medicine Association  
HMS – Center for Health Innovation  
International Association of Forensic Nurses  
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
March of Dimes  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
National AHEC Organization  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Board of Certified Counselors, Inc. and Affiliates  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Council on Diversity in the Health Professions

National Disability Rights Network  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National League for Nursing  
New York State Bleeding Disorders Coalition  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Pacific Pride Foundation  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Pre-Health Dreamers  
Prevent Blindness America  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at University of New Mexico  
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition  
Social Medicine and Community Health  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
The AIDS Institute  
University of New Mexico  
University of Texas El Paso  
University of Texas Houston

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee  
House Appropriations Committee