

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

c/o American Public Health Association
800 I Street NW
Washington DC, 20016
202-777-2513

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146A, Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran and Harkin and Representatives Obey, Lewis and Tiahrt:

The undersigned members of the Friends of HRSA coalition urge you to provide at least \$9.15 billion for HRSA in FY 2011 in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

We are appreciative of your past efforts to provide increased support for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in FY 2010. While recognizing the constraints of the current budgetary climate, our request of \$9.15 billion for HRSA in FY 2011 reflects the minimum amount necessary for the agency to adequately meet the needs of the populations it serves. The relatively level funding HRSA has received over the past several years has undermined the ability of its successful programs to grow; 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.

Through its programs in every state and thousands of communities across the country, HRSA is a national leader in providing health services for individuals and families throughout the country and serves as a health safety net for the medically underserved including the 86.7 million Americans who were uninsured for some or all of 2007-2008 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. As Congress and the Administration continue working to reform the nation's health system, we urge you to consider HRSA's role in building the foundation for health service delivery and ensuring that vulnerable populations transition smoothly into a new health system to receive quality health services, while continuing to strengthen our nation's health safety net programs. By supporting, planning for and adapting to change, we can build on the successes of the past and address new gaps that emerge as a result of health system reform.

We are grateful for your support in the past and **urge you to support a funding level of \$9.15 billion for HRSA in FY 2011.**

Sincerely,

AIDS Action
AIDS Project Los Angeles
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
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 College of Preventive Medicine
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Heart Association
American Hospital Association
American Medical Student Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Nurses Association
American Optometric Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of Departments of Family Medicine

Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Organ Procurement Organizations
Association of Professors of Medicine
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of the Clinicians for the Underserved
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
Coalition for Health Services Research
Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief Coalition
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Council on Social Work Education
Emergency Nurses Association
Family Voices
HIV Medicine Association
Meharry Medical College
Morehouse School of Medicine
National AHEC Organization
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Association of People with AIDS
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National Association of Social Workers
National Council on Diversity in the Health Professions
National League for Nursing
National Rural Health Association
North American Primary Care Research Group
Physician Assistant Education Association
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Prevent Blindness America
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Society for Public Health Education
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
The AIDS Institute

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee
House Appropriations Committee