

August 19, 2011

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 Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The 45 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 and Title VIII programs in the FY 2012 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. HPNEC supports a commitment to the programs commensurate with the need identified in HRSA's FY 2012 Congressional Budget Justification for \$762.5 million to help mitigate provider shortages across health professions disciplines.

The Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing education programs are the only federal programs that specifically address some of the nation's most pressing health care workforce concerns (such as primary care), help meet the needs of special and underserved populations, and help improve the diversity of the nation's health care workforce. Since 1963, the programs have helped prepare the health care workforce to respond to the country's evolving needs. For example, in recognition of the increasingly team-based nature of health care, the programs facilitate education and training opportunities for a wide range of health professionals in interdisciplinary settings. Similarly, the programs equip tomorrow's health care workforce to care for the country's growing, aging population, and help fill other gaps in the supply of health professionals not met by traditional market forces.

Through student loans, loan guarantees, and scholarships to students, and grants and contracts to institutions, the Title VII and VIII programs seek to enhance health care services in rural and underserved areas and guide aspiring and practicing health professionals to communities and careers where vacancies persist. The programs remain a critical element of the nation's health care safety net and will continue to strengthen the workforce as more individuals seek access to health care services.

While we recognize the difficult decisions Congress faces in securing the nation's fiscal stability, we urge you to prioritize the nation's health care workforce needs with \$762.5 million for the Title VII and Title VIII programs in FY 2012. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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 Nurse Practitioners

American College of Physicians

American College of Preventive Medicine

American Dental Education Association

American Geriatrics Society

American Nurses 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 for Prevention Teaching and Research

Association of Academic Health Centers

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of Departments of Family Medicine

Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors

Association of Minority Health Professions Schools

Association of Rehabilitation Nurses

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health

Council on Social Work Education

National AHEC Organization

National Association of Medical Minority Educators

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions

National Hispanic Medical Association

National League for Nursing

National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties

National Rural Health Association

North American Primary Care Research Group

Oncology Nursing Society

Physician Assistant Education Association

Society of General Internal Medicine

Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

Student National Medical Association