



November 13, 2013

Dear Representative:

The 48 undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to thank you for your vote in favor of H.R. 2775 to reopen the federal government and raise the debt ceiling. Your vote helped avoid default and restored federal funding for many activities vital to the nation's health, including funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce programs. HPNEC is an informal alliance of national organizations dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of the country's growing, aging, and diverse population.

As you may know, the nation faces a shortage of health professionals across disciplines, and to help mitigate these shortages, Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce programs seek to improve the supply, diversity, and distribution of the primary care workforce. Your vote on H.R. 2775 allowed these important activities to continue and we strongly commend your decision to vote in favor. However, just as programs are resuming their work, the threat of sequestration in FY 2014 limits the programs' capacity to meet these aims and improve access to care. What's more, without a solution, sequestration will continue to erode federal investments in the health professions workforce over the next decade, at the same time the country's workforce challenges heighten.

Sequestration is unworkable, and no amount of flexibility, carve outs, or piecemeal fixes will make it so. We urge Congress and the Administration to put politics aside and work together; otherwise, sequestration will only reverse progress made to date by Titles VII and VIII, hampering their ability to improve access to care for the nation's children, adults, seniors, and most vulnerable.

Please stand strong, and build on your bipartisan support of H.R. 2775 to support a responsible FY 2014 budget that replaces sequestration.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
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 Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
The American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Physicians

American College of Preventive Medicine
American Geriatrics Society
American Nurses Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
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 Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
Council on Social Work Education
Health Professions Network
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
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
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Physician Assistant Education Association
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine