

# 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

April 13, 2009

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6024

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6024

Dear Chairman Obey and Representative Tiahrt:

**The undersigned members of the Friends of HRSA coalition urge you to provide at least \$8.5 billion for HRSA in FY 2010 in the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.** For several years, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has suffered from relatively level funding, undermining the ability of its successful programs to grow. Our request reflects the minimum amount necessary for HRSA to adequately meet the needs of the populations they serve in FY 2010. However, 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 more than 140 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 have continued support in order 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 a health safety net for medically underserved individuals and families, including 86.7 million Americans who were uninsured for some or all of 2007-2008; 50 million Americans who live in neighborhoods where primary health care services are scarce; more than one million people living with HIV/AIDS, and 34 million vulnerable mothers and children, including children with special health care needs.

A significantly greater investment is necessary to adequately fund HRSA's many programs that are facing increasing demands as the economic recession continues. In addition, with Congress and the Administration 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 and receive continued, quality health services. By supporting, planning for and adapting to change, we can build on the successes of the past and address the 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 \$8.5 billion for HRSA in FY 2010.**

Sincerely,

AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
The AIDS Institute  
AIDS Project Los Angeles  
Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of  
Asthmatics  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of  
Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric  
Medicine  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Federation of State, County and  
Municipal Employees  
American Heart Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Public Health Association  
Association for Prevention Teaching and  
Research  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of Departments of Family  
Medicine  
Association of Family Medicine Residency  
Directors  
Association of Maternal and Child Health  
Programs

Association of Medical School Pediatric  
Department Chairs  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Directors  
of Nursing  
Association of State and Territorial Health  
Officials  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric &  
Neonatal Nurses  
CAEAR Coalition  
Coalition for American Trauma Care  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Easter Seals  
Emergency Nurses Association  
HIV Medicine Association  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
March of Dimes Foundation  
National Alliance of State and Territorial  
AIDS Directors  
National Association of Children's Hospitals  
(N.A.C.H.)  
National Association of Community Health  
Centers  
National Association of County and City  
Health Officials  
National Disability Rights Network  
National League for Nursing  
North American Primary Care Research  
Group  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
The Sexuality Information and Education  
Council of the United States (SIECUS)  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
The Arc of the United States  
United Cerebral Palsy

Cc: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Humans Services, Education and  
Related Agencies