

December 22, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kent Conrad  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Judd Gregg  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators:

As you finalize legislation to expand health care coverage and to improve the quality of care received by patients, the undersigned organizations respectfully request that you retain the provision that creates the Public Health Investment Fund (“the Fund”) in Section 2002 of the Affordable Health Care for America Act (H.R. 3962), as well as provisions that specify eligibility for HRSA’s health professions programs.

The Fund strengthens support for the health professions training programs that enhance the supply, distribution and diversity of the health professions workforce. As you prepare to expand Americans’ access to care, it is imperative that we ensure that there is an adequate supply of well-trained health professionals. The establishment of the Fund will create a mandatory funding stream from which appropriators can supplement the appropriations for health professions training programs once these programs have been funded at the FY 2008 level, allowing these programs to expand at a time when there will be significant pressure to control costs.

As you know, a diverse, well-distributed workforce is a vital component to improving access to health care services. HRSA’s health professions programs play an instrumental role in attaining this goal, but have been limited by chronic underfunding. We believe this approach will allow maximum flexibility and will help ensure that support for the programs can keep up with the nation’s emerging health care needs.

Thank you for your leadership and support for these important health professions programs. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Erika Miller at (202) 484-1100 or [emiller@dc-crd.com](mailto:emiller@dc-crd.com).

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians  
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 Nurse Anesthetists  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Medical Student Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Community Health Educators  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
Association of State & Territorial Directors of Nursing  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science  
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities  
Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU Healthcare  
Council on Social Work Education  
Health Professions Network  
HIV Medicine Association  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
Meharry Medical College  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
National AHEC Organization  
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Association for Geriatric Education  
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers  
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Council on Diversity in the Health Professions

National League for Nursing  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Philippine Nurses Association of America, Inc.  
Physician Assistant Education Association  
Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations  
Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates