

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration

c/o American Public Health Association

www.friendsofhrsa.org

October 18, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Blunt and Ranking Members Mikulski and Murray:

The undersigned members of the Friends of HRSA and other supporting organizations urge you to support our original FY 2017 request of \$7.48 billion for discretionary Health Resources and Services Administration programs in the final FY 2017 spending agreement. We also urge you to restore the funding cuts to the HRSA programs that were included in the bills passed by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees earlier in the year. Additionally, we ask you to reject the inclusion of any controversial policy riders that would threaten public health.

The Friends of HRSA is a coalition of 170 national organizations committed to supporting programs that are essential for a healthy nation. HRSA administers programs that focus on improving care for millions of Americans, who are medically underserved or face barriers to needed care, by strengthening the health workforce and increasing access to quality health services.

Our nation's ability to deliver health services that meet the pressing health challenges of the 21st century is essential for a healthy and thriving population. To meet our nation's persistent and changing health needs, and to keep pace with our growing, aging and increasingly diverse population, and evolving health care system, we must make deliberate investments in robust systems of care, innovative programs and a high-performing workforce ready to respond to the current and expected demands. HRSA programs have been successful in improving the health of people at highest risk for poor health outcomes, and the agency continues to explore and support efforts that drive quality care, better leverage existing investments and achieve improved health outcomes at a lower cost.

HRSA administers critical public health programs that reach millions of Americans by: providing primary care services to more than 22.9 million people; supporting the health workforce across the entire training continuum and addressing workforce distribution challenges to ensure access to care in underserved areas; supporting programs that promote optimal health, reduce infant mortality, minimize disparities, and prevent chronic conditions for vulnerable women, infants and children; providing medical care, treatment and support services for 512,000 people living with HIV/AIDS; increasing the availability of life-saving cord blood and donor organs for transplantation; enhancing health care delivery in rural communities; and ensuring access to family planning services to more than 4.1 million low-income women, men and adolescents.

As you work to complete spending legislation for FY 2017, we urge you to consider HRSA's central role in strengthening the nation's health and support a funding level of \$7.48 billion for HRSA's discretionary budget authority in FY 2017. A strong commitment of resources is necessary to continue building on HRSA's many successes and to make meaningful progress on pressing issues that threaten the vitality of our nation.

For any questions regarding our request, please feel free to contact Nicole Burda, Deputy Director of Government Relations for the American Public Health Association, at nicole.burda@apha.org or 202-777-2513.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental Research
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 Association of Kidney Patients
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
American Medical Student Association
American Optometric Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation
APLA Health
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Children's Hospital Association
Coalition for Health Funding
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Family Voices
HealthHIV
Healthy Kinder
HIV Medicine Association
March of Dimes
Meharry Medical College
Morehouse School of Medicine
NACCHO
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Board for Certified Counselors
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Environmental Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Healthy Start Association
National Kidney Foundation
National League for Nursing
National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Nurse-led Care Consortium
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Prevent Blindness
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
School-Based Health Alliance
Society for Public Health Education
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
The AIDS Institute
The American Academy of HIV Medicine
Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO)
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health

Cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Appropriations Committee