

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 4, 2007

Senator Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Specter:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to restore funding for the Title VII health professions program at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to the FY 2005 appropriated level of \$300 million. As you know, these programs provide direct financial support for health care workforce development and education. In addition, they are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

The FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill dramatically reduced funding for Title VII health professions programs, resulting in a 51 percent reduction from the FY 2005 appropriation. These funding levels were carried over in FY 2007 Joint Funding Resolution. At a time of serious health professions shortages, reducing this resource has already had devastating effect on the country's neediest communities. By restoring funding to these programs to FY 2005 levels, you will enable them to continue to improve the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce.

We respectfully urge you to restore funding to the Title VII programs in the FY 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your leadership and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Jack Reed

  
Pat Roberts

Bob Dyl

Rebbie Stewart

Norm Coleman

Jim Durbin

Robert A. Mclachlan

Ben Cardie

Gene Down

Chuck Schurr

Mary Gaudin

Blanche R. Linstrum

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Ken Salazar

Max Buccuso

James Feinstein

Barack Obama

Maria Cantwell

Rick Warren

De Bono

Carl Levin

Jim F. Kerry

Shirley Brown

Ron Wyden

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Marianne Williamson

Elizabeth Dole

Erin Boyle

Chuck Schumer

Shirley M. Kenneddy

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Patrick Leahy

Jay Byrnes

Shirley

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John Comyn

Harry Reid

Byron L. Dyer

Stephen D. Neum

Joe Test

Bob Carey, Jr.

Chris Doherty

Care McCall

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Peter Pomini

Mark Pryor

John Warner

Bob I. Levin

Jesse Owens

Amy Klobuchar

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Baucus (Mont.)  
Bayh (Ind.)  
Biden (Del.)  
Bingaman (N.M.)  
Boxer (Calif.)  
Brown (Ohio)  
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