

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

c/o American Public Health Association
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April 13, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Senator Specter:

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