



March 27, 2014

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kingston, Chairman Harkin, Rep. DeLauro, and Senator Moran:

The 56 undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to recommend \$520 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing programs in the FY 2015 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill. HPNEC is an alliance of national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of our diverse population.

Titles VII and VIII are the only federally-funded programs that seek to improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health professions workforce, with a focus on primary care and interdisciplinary training. By providing educational and training opportunities to aspiring and practicing health professionals, the programs also play a critical role in helping the workforce adapt to meet the nation's changing health care needs. The programs continue to prepare health professionals for new care delivery models and emerging health care challenges, enhance the size and diversity of the health care workforce, and improve access to primary care for children, adults, and seniors. Further, their structure allows them to focus on timely topics, such as improving the cultural competency of the workforce and incorporating oral health and behavioral and mental health into primary care.

As demand for health professionals grows in the face of impending shortages and a growing, aging population, continuing the investment in health professions workforce development will be key to ensuring access to high quality care for all.

While HPNEC recognizes the challenges you face in a limited budget environment, we urge you to ensure the next generation of health professionals is equipped to address the nation's health care complexities by providing \$520 million for Titles VII and VIII in FY 2015.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
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 College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
Council on Social Work Education
Eldercare Workforce Alliance
Emergency Nurses Association
Health Professions Network
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Hispanic Serving Health Professions Schools
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Physician Assistant Education Association
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine