



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

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

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

February 27, 2013

Dear Chairmen Kingston and Harkin and Ranking Members Shelby and DeLauro:

The 60 undersigned organizations of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to urge you to preserve full funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs as you finalize the FY 2013 appropriations bills. HPNEC is an informal alliance of national organizations dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of the country's growing, aging, and diverse population.

In 2013, the programs will celebrate their 50th anniversary, and part of their longstanding success can be attributed to their ability to adapt and respond to the country's changing health care needs. Today, we have a nation that is growing and becoming increasingly diverse. Further, the country faces a rapidly growing, aging population and millions more Americans seeking access to care.

Titles VII and VIII ensure the nation is equipped with a workforce to provide well-coordinated, quality care, to alleviate primary care provider shortages, and to improve access to care for all populations. Diversifying the health care workforce is a central focus of the Title VII and VIII programs, making them a key player in the fight to mitigate racial, ethnic, and socio-economic health disparities, which are estimated to cost the nation \$363.1 billion by 2050.

Further, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts the health care sector will be one of the fastest growing in terms of jobs. In a difficult economy, Title VII and Title VIII play an important role in guiding individuals to high-demand health professions jobs, fulfilling both their individual career goals and a community's health needs.



Yet, continued cuts threaten to reverse the programs' progress to date in increasing the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health professions workforce and increasing access to care for children, adults, and seniors. While we recognize the challenges you face in a difficult budget environment that continues to target discretionary spending, these programs cannot sustain further reductions. We urge you to preserve the relatively modest investment in Titles VII and VIII, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the continuation of Congressional support for programs in FY 2013.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Society
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 Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
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 Psychological Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
Association for Minority Health Professions Schools
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
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 Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

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California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
Council on Social Work Education
Health Professions Network
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium
Movement is Life
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Minority Medical Educators, Inc.
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