



March 21, 2016

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

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

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

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

Dear Chairmen Cole and Blunt and Ranking Members DeLauro and Murray:

The 46 undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to recommend \$524 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs in the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill. Additionally, because HRSA has been administering the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Program, we also support the President's FY 2017 budget proposal of shifting funds previously appropriated to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to HRSA. 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.

Title VII and Title 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. These programs help shape the workforce in targeted ways, such as promoting interprofessional, team-based care; promoting service in underserved areas; and filling other gaps in the health care workforce.

Moreover, we have a nation that is growing and becoming increasingly diverse. At a time when millions of Americans are accessing health care for the first time, it is crucial that we enhance the federal commitment to the programs that equip the next generation of health professionals to keep up with the increasing health care challenges of a changing population.

While HPNEC recognizes the challenges you face in the constrained 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 \$524 million for Titles VII and VIII in FY 2017, and providing BHWET funding directly to HRSA.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
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 Pharmacy  
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Education Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
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 (AMHPS)  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities  
Council on Social Work Education  
Emergency Nurses Association  
National AHEC Organization  
National Association for Geriatric Education  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National League for Nursing  
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two Year Colleges  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Pediatric Policy Council

Physician Assistant Education Association  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine