



March 18, 2015

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 58 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) 2016 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.

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. The programs play a critical role in helping the workforce adapt to meet the nation's changing health care needs by providing educational and training opportunities to aspiring and practicing health professionals and advancing curricular innovations.

Additionally, the programs have proven effective in guiding individuals toward practice in rural and urban underserved communities. 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 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 2016.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
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 College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Pediatric Society
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 Clinicians for the Underserved
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 Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
Council on Social Work Education
Eldercare Workforce Alliance
Emergency Nurses Association
Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools
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 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 Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
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