

**Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration**

c/o American Public Health Association

[www.friendsofhrsa.org](http://www.friendsofhrsa.org)

March 8, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The undersigned 112 members of the Friends of HRSA coalition and other supporting organizations recommend providing **\$9.2 billion for discretionary Health Resources and Services Administration programs in the FY 2022 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill**. We are grateful for the increases provided for HRSA programs in FY 2021 and for the emergency supplemental funding to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, but HRSA's discretionary budget authority is far too low to effectively address the nation's current public health and health care needs. Additional funding will allow HRSA to fill preventive and primary health care gaps, support the urgent and long-term public health workforce needs and build upon the achievements of HRSA's more than 90 programs and more than 3,000 grantees.

Friends of HRSA is a nonpartisan coalition of national organizations representing public health and health care professionals, academicians, and consumers invested in HRSA's mission to improve health and achieve health equity. The coalition advocates for strengthening funding levels for HRSA's discretionary budget authority to enable the agency to keep pace with the persistent and changing health demands of the nation's growing, aging and diversifying population and constantly evolving public health and health care system.

HRSA is a national leader in improving the health of Americans by addressing the supply, distribution and diversity of health professionals, supporting training in contemporary public health practices and providing quality health services to the nation's most vulnerable populations. This includes people living with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, mothers and their families and those otherwise unable to access high quality health care. HRSA also oversees organ, bone marrow and cord blood donation, compensates individuals harmed by vaccination and maintains databases that protect against health care malpractice, waste, fraud and abuse.

Investing in programs that keep people healthy is important for the vitality of our nation. HRSA programs have been successful in improving the health of people at highest risk for poor health outcomes. The agency supports efforts that increase access to quality care, better leverage existing investments and achieve improved health outcomes at a lower cost. For example:

- HRSA supports nearly 13,000 community health centers which provide high quality primary care services to nearly 30 million people and reduce barriers such as cost, lack of insurance, distance and language for their patients.
- HRSA supports the health workforce across the entire training continuum by strengthening the workforce and connecting skilled professionals to communities in need. Programs such as the Public Health Training Centers assess and respond to critical workforce needs through training, technical assistance and student support.
- HRSA's Maternal and Child Health programs support patient-centered, evidence-based programs that optimize health, minimize disparities and improve health promotion and health care access for medically and economically vulnerable women, infants and children.
- HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides medical care and treatment services to over half a million people living with HIV. Ryan White programs effectively engage clients in comprehensive care and treatment, including increasing access to HIV medication, which has resulted in 88.1% of clients achieving viral suppression, compared to just 64.7% of all people living with HIV nationwide.
- HRSA supports healthcare systems and programs that increase access and availability of lifesaving bone marrow, cord blood and donor organs for transplantation. Additionally, the Healthcare Systems Bureau supports poison control centers, which contribute to significantly decreasing a patient's length of stay in a hospital and save the federal government \$1.8 billion each year in medical costs and lost productivity.
- HRSA supports community- and state-based solutions to improve rural community health by focusing on quality improvement, increasing health care access, coordination of care and integration of services that are uniquely designed to meet the needs of rural communities.
- The Title X Family Planning program reduces unintended pregnancy rates, limits transmission of sexually transmitted infections and increases early detection of breast and cervical cancer by ensuring access to family planning and related preventive health services to over 3.1 million women, men and adolescents.
- HRSA also supports training, technical assistance and resource development to assist public health and health care professionals to better serve individuals and communities impacted by intimate partner violence.
- HRSA is well positioned to respond to infectious disease outbreaks and has been active in the COVID-19 pandemic response, awarding billions of dollars to health centers to administer COVID-19 tests and reimbursing providers who offer COVID-19 care to uninsured individuals.

The nation faces a shortage of health professionals and a growing and aging population which will demand more health care. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic reaffirmed the critical nature of a robust workforce in responding to public health emergencies. HRSA is well positioned to address these issues and to continue building on the agency's many successes, but a stronger commitment of resources is necessary to effectively do so. We urge you to consider HRSA's central role in strengthening the nation's health and support a funding level of \$9.2 billion for HRSA's discretionary budget authority in FY 2022.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American College of Physicians  
American Dental Education Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Departments of Family Medicine  
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Pathology Chairs  
Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
CAEAR Coalition  
Children's Hospital Association  
Children's Vision Massachusetts  
Colorado Public Health Association  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service. Inc. (COA)  
Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association  
District of Columbia Public Health Association  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Family Voices  
Futures Without Violence  
Prevent Blindness Georgia  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality  
Hawaii Public Health Association  
Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition  
Healthy Kinder International  
Healthy Teen Network  
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute  
HIV Medicine Association  
Illinois Public Health Association  
Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness  
Indiana Public Health Association

Iowa Public Health Association  
Kentucky Public Health Association  
Louisiana - Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine  
Louisiana Public Health Association  
Maine Public Health Association  
March of Dimes  
Maryland Public Health Assist  
Michigan Public Health Association  
Migrant Clinicians Network  
Minnesota Public Health Association  
Mississippi Public Health Association  
Missouri Public Health Association  
Montana Public Health Association  
NASTAD  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Dental Association  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Healthy Start Association  
National Indian Health Board  
National Institute for Children's Health Quality - NICHQ  
National League for Nursing  
National Network for Oral Health Access  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
NC Public Health Association  
New Hampshire Public Health Association  
New Jersey Public Health Association  
North American Primary Care Group  
North Dakota Public Health Association  
Northwest Regional Primary Care Association  
Oklahoma Public Health Association  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Oregon Public Health Association  
Pennsylvania Public Health Association  
Prevent Blindness  
Prevent Blindness Iowa  
Prevent Blindness North Carolina  
Prevent Blindness Texas  
Prevent Blindness Wisconsin  
Puerto Rico  
Public Health Association of Nebraska  
Rhode Island Public Health Association  
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition  
School-Based Health Alliance  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society of General Internal Medicine

Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
South Carolina Public Health Association  
South Dakota Public Health Association  
Southern California Public Health Association  
Tennessee Public Health Association  
Texas A&M Health  
The AIDS Institute  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The Society for Public Health Education  
Vermont Public Health Association  
Virginia Public Health Association  
Washington State Public Health Association  
Wisconsin Public Health Association  
Wyoming Public Health Association

Cc: House Appropriations Committee  
Senate Appropriations Committee