

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

c/o American Public Health Association

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Testimony of the Friends of the HRSA Concerning the Health Resources and Services Administration's Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Submitted for the Record April 16, 2010

The Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is a non-profit and non-partisan alliance of more than 170 national organizations, collectively representing millions of public health and health care professionals, academicians and consumers. The coalition's principal goal is to ensure that HRSA's broad health programs have continued support in order to reach the populations presently underserved by the nation's patchwork of health services.

Through its programs in every state and thousands of communities across the country, HRSA is a national leader in providing health services for individuals and families throughout the country and serves as a health safety net for the medically underserved including the 86.7 million Americans who were uninsured for some or all of 2007-2008 and 50 million Americans who live in neighborhoods where primary health care services are scarce. **To respond to these challenges, it is the best professional judgment of the members of the Friends of HRSA that the agency will require an overall funding level of at least \$9.15 billion for fiscal year (FY) 2011.**

We are appreciative of your past efforts to provide increased support for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in FY 2010. While recognizing the constraints of the current budgetary climate, our request of \$9.15 billion for HRSA in FY 2011 reflects the minimum amount necessary for the agency to adequately meet the needs of the populations it serves. The relatively level funding HRSA has received over the past several years has undermined the ability of its successful programs to grow; much more is needed for the agency to achieve its ultimate mission of ensuring access to culturally competent, quality health services; eliminating health disparities; and rebuilding the public health and health care infrastructure.

Our \$9.15 billion FY 2011 HRSA funding request is based upon recommendations provided by coalition members to support HRSA programs including:

- Health Professions programs support the education and training of primary care physicians, nurses, dentists, optometrists physician assistants, nurse practitioners, public health personnel, mental and behavioral health professionals, pharmacists, and other allied health providers; improve the distribution and diversity of health professionals in medically underserved communities; and ensure a sufficient and capable health workforce able to provide care for all Americans and respond to the growing demands of our aging and increasingly diverse population. In addition, the Patient Navigator Program helps individuals in underserved communities who suffer disproportionately from chronic diseases navigate the health care system.

- Primary Care programs support more than 7,000 community health centers in every state and territory, improving access to preventive and primary care in geographically isolated and economically distressed communities. In addition, the health centers program targets populations with special needs, including migrant and seasonal farm workers, homeless individuals and families, and those living in public housing.
- Maternal and Child Health Flexible Maternal and Child Health Block Grants, Healthy Start and other programs provide services, including prenatal and postnatal care, newborn screening tests, immunizations, school-based health services, mental health services, and well-child care for more than 34 million uninsured and underserved women and children not covered by Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program, including children with special needs.
- HIV/AIDS programs provide assistance to metropolitan and other areas most severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic; support comprehensive care, drug assistance and support services for people living with HIV/AIDS; provide education and training for health professionals treating people with HIV/AIDS; and address the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on women and minorities.
- Family Planning Title X programs provide reproductive health care and other preventive services for more than 5 million low-income women at over 4,500 clinics nationwide. These programs improve maternal and child health outcomes, prevent unintended pregnancies, and reduce the rate of abortions.
- Rural Health programs improve access to care for the 60 million Americans who live in rural areas. Rural Health Outreach and Network Development Grants, Rural Health Research Centers and other programs are designed to support community-based disease prevention and health promotion projects, help rural hospitals and clinics implement new technologies and strategies, and build health system capacity in rural and frontier areas.
- Special Programs include the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, the National Marrow Donor Program the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program, and National Cord Blood Inventory. Strong funding would facilitate an increase in organ, tissue and blood cell donations and transplantations.

Greater investment is necessary to sufficiently fund HRSA services and programs that continue to face increasing demands. We urge you to consider HRSA's role in building the foundation for health service delivery and ensuring that vulnerable populations transition smoothly into a new health system to receive quality health services, while continuing to strengthen our nation's health safety net programs. By supporting, planning for and adapting to change, we can build on the successes of the past and address new gaps that emerge as a result of health system reform.

We appreciate the Subcommittee's hard work in advocating for HRSA's programs in a climate of competing priorities. The members of the Friends of HRSA thank you for considering our **FY 2011 request for \$9.15 billion for HRSA in the FY 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill** and are grateful for this opportunity to present our views to the Subcommittee.

AIDS Action
 AIDS Project Los Angeles
 Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
 American Academy of Family Physicians
 American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
 American Academy of Pediatrics
 American Academy of Physician Assistants
 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 Preventive Medicine
 American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
 American Dental Education Association
 American Dental Hygienists' Association
 American Heart Association
 American Hospital Association
 American Medical Student Association
 American Medical Women's Association
 American Nurses Association
 American Optometric Association
 American Physical Therapy Association
 American Podiatric Medical Association
 American Psychological Association
 American Public Health Association
 American School Health Association
 American Society for Clinical Pathology
 Association of Academic Health Centers
 Association of Departments of Family Medicine
 Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
 Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
 Association of Organ Procurement Organizations
 Association of Professors of Medicine
 Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine
 Association of Public Health Laboratories
 Association of Schools of Public Health
 Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing
 Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
 Association of the Clinicians for the Underserved
 Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
 Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
 Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
 Coalition for Health Services Research
 Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief Coalition
 Consortium of Social Science Associations
 Council on Social Work Education
 Emergency Nurses Association
 Family Voices
 HIV Medicine Association
 Meharry Medical College
 Morehouse School of Medicine
 National AHEC Organization
 National Association of Community Health Centers
 National Association of County and City Health Officials
 National Association of Local Boards of Health
 National Association of People with AIDS
 National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
 National Association of Social Workers
 National Council on Diversity in the Health Professions
 National League for Nursing
 National Rural Health Association
 North American Primary Care Research Group
 Physician Assistant Education Association
 Planned Parenthood Federation of America
 Prevent Blindness America
 Pulmonary Hypertension Association
 Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
 Society for Public Health Education
 Society of General Internal Medicine
 Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
 The AIDS Institute