



November 22, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Leahy, Chair DeLauro, Vice Chair Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger:

On behalf of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), I write to urge Congress to **provide at least the House-passed level of \$980 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs for fiscal year (FY) 2022**. The House-passed levels are an essential first step in achieving HPNEC's recommendation of providing \$1.51 billion for the Titles VII and VIII programs

HPNEC also urges members to finalize the FY 2022 spending packages as soon as possible and avoid additional continuing resolutions. We remain concerned that current funding levels for the chronically underfunded HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs will hinder our nation's ability to educate current and future providers to serve the needs of all patients.

HPNEC is an alliance of over 90 national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to training our nation's health care workforce to meet the needs of our population. Together, the members of HPNEC advocate for continued support for the health professions and nursing workforce development programs authorized under Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act and administered by HRSA.

The COVID-19 pandemic has pulled back the curtain on the health inequities facing patients across the country, including those from diverse, economically disadvantaged, and rural backgrounds. To ensure that all patients receive quality care health care providers must be able to appropriately treat patients from all backgrounds to meet the needs of the high-risk communities.

The HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs have proven successful in recruiting, training, and supporting public health practitioners, nurses, geriatricians, mental health providers, and other front-line health care workers critical to addressing COVID-19. In addition, many of the programs target participants from diverse, economically disadvantaged, and rural backgrounds. Establishing a health workforce with providers from these backgrounds improves patients' access to care and satisfaction and bettering health professions learning environments.

Additionally, we need to make sure that our health care system meets the ever-changing needs of patients across the country. Through developing new curriculum to address emerging public health crises, such as substance use disorders, or collaborating with community leaders in educating providers to deliver culturally competent care, to utilizing telehealth as a way to connect with patients, the Title VII and Title VIII programs help ensure our health workforce is at the forefront of new health care delivery systems and models of care.

Congress must increase investment in the Title VII and Title VIII programs to combat pervasive health inequities as seen in the COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare the health workforce for the health care demands of tomorrow. To that end, **HPNEC urges you to provide at least the House passed values of \$980 million for Titles VII and VIII in FY 2022** to ensure our health workforce meets the needs of all patients.

If you have any questions, please contact do not hesitate to contact me or Brett Roude at broude@aamc.org or 202-753-5726.

Sincerely,
Matthew Shick
Executive Director

Cc: House of Representatives Appropriations Committee
Cc: States Appropriations Committee

Members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition

Academic Consortium for Integrative
Medicine & Health
Academic Pediatric Association
Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
(AAIM)
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and
Immunology
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Hospice and
Palliative Medicine
American Academy of PAs
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental Research
American Association of Chairs of
Departments of Psychiatry
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 Directors of
Psychiatric Residency Training
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Cardiology
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 Federation of Teachers
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Student Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Music Therapy Association

American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy
Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory
Science
American Society for Reproductive
Medicine (ASRM)
American Surgical Association
America's Essential Hospitals
Association of Academic Health Sciences
Libraries
Association of American Indian Physicians
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary
Medical Colleges
Association of Chairs of Departments of
Physiology
Association of Chiropractic 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
Association of Pathology Chairs
Association of Psychologists in Academic
Health Centers
Association of Public and Land-grant
Universities
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Schools Advancing Health
Professions
Association of Schools Advancing Health
Professions

Association of Schools and Colleges of
Optometry
Association of University Professors of
Ophthalmology
CAEAR Coalition
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic
Pharmacists (CPNP)
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Social Work Education
Eldercare Workforce Alliance
Health Professions Network
Heart Failure Society of America
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy
Association (HOPA)
HIV Medicine Association
Latino Medical Student Association
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Community Health
Centers
National Association of Geriatric Education
Centers
National Association of Nurse Practitioner's
in Women's Health (NPWH)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Council for Diversity in Health
Professions
National Family Planning & Reproductive
Health Association
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Medical Association
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner
Faculties
North American Primary Care Research
Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Pediatric Policy Council
Physician Assistant Education Association
Pre-Health Dreamers

Society for Pediatric Research
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Student National Medical Association (SNMA)