

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration

c/o American Public Health Association

www.friendsofhrsa.org

November 30, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairman Leahy, Ranking Member Granger and Vice Chairman Shelby:

The undersigned 67 members of the Friends of HRSA coalition and other supporting organizations urge you to include at least **\$9.39 billion for discretionary Health Resources and Services Administration programs in the FY 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill**. While we believe our initial request of \$9.8 billion for HRSA in FY 2023 is still needed, we urge you to support no less than \$9.39 billion as provided for discretionary HRSA programs in the Senate-passed Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for FY 2023. Strong funding for HRSA is critical to supporting all of HRSA's activities and programs, which are essential to protect the health of our communities. Due to years of underfunding, many HRSA programs have not received the funding that is needed to address the many health challenges we face as a nation, limiting their ability to provide communities with the support, care and workforce that they depend on. Additional funding will allow HRSA to fill preventive and primary health care gaps, support 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. We also believe that it is critical for Congress to quickly finalize the FY 2023 appropriations process to avoid further lengthy continuing resolutions that bring uncertainty and make it more difficult for the agency and its grantees to protect the public's health.

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 more than 13,500 community health center sites which provide high quality primary care services to nearly 29 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 89.4% of clients achieving viral suppression, compared to just 65.5% 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 millions of 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 at least \$9.39 billion for HRSA's discretionary budget authority in FY 2023.**

Please contact Jordan Wolfe at jordan.wolfe@apha.org or 202-777-2513 with any questions regarding our request.

Sincerely,

Accessia Health
Allergy & Asthma Network
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
American College of Physicians
American Geriatrics Society
American Liver Foundation
American Medical Women's Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society of Addiction Medicine
APLA Health
Association for Clinical and Translational Science
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Pathology Chairs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Big Cities Health Coalition
CAEAR Coalition
Choose Healthy Life
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Epilepsy Foundation
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
Healthy Teen Network
Hemophilia of Georgia
HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute
Hope Charities
Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness
March of Dimes
Migrant Clinicians Network

Morehouse School of Medicine
NASTAD
National AHEC Organization
National Council for Diversity in Health Professions
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Marrow Donor Program/ Be The Match
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
NephCure Kidney International
Oncology Nursing Society
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Physician Assistant Education Association
Prevent Blindness
Prevent Blindness North Carolina
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
School Based Health Alliance
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
The AIDS Institute
The Gerontological Society of America
The Western Region Public Health Training Center (HRSA Region IX)
Tulane University
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine

Cc: House Appropriations Committee
Senate Appropriations Committee