Help Health Professionals in your District—

Support Title VII Funding!

**This is a Programmatic Request**

DEADLINE: COB March 19

Dear Colleague:

We encourage you to join us in signing the attached letter urging appropriators to support Title VII health professions education and training programs with $280 million in the upcoming FY 2016 Labor-HHS appropriations bill. This funding level will support all existing Title VII programs, including those bolstering the supply of geriatricians and mental and behavioral health professionals, and will aid in developing a primary care workforce that meets the nation’s needs.

The Title VII programs provide grants to educational institutions and other venues that educate and train primary care health professionals in rural and urban areas classified as underserved. The training that students receive through Title VII programs greatly increases the likelihood that they will return to and practice in these underserved areas, helping to address our nation’s workforce shortages. In addition, Title VII programs increase diversity and cultural competency of our health care workforce, an important role as the nation’s population is growing and becoming more diverse.

Title VII programs seek to alleviate the shortage of primary care providers, improve distribution of health professionals, and develop a health care workforce that reflects the nation’s increasing diversity. The programs have a longstanding tradition of helping the workforce adapt to address timely health issues, such as strengthening education and training opportunities in geriatrics to care for the nation’s aging population and working to close the gap in access to mental and behavioral health care services by augmenting the supply of these providers.

Continued support for Title VII programs is essential to prepare the next generation of health professionals for the rapidly changing and emerging needs of the growing and aging American population.

We urge you to sign the attached letter to reinvest in these programs, and enable them to continue to improve the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce. To sign, please contact James Decker with Rep. Burgess at James.Decker@mail.house.gov or 5-
7772 or Ellen Treimel with Rep. DeGette at Ellen.Treimel@mail.house.gov or 5-4431.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.                                          Diana Degette
Member of Congress                                                Member of Congress

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Representative Tom Cole                                Representative Rosa DeLauro
Chairman                                                         Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to support the nation’s health care workforce by including $280 million for the Title VII health professions education and training programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). As you know, these programs provide direct financial support for health care workforce development and education. Further, with a focus on primary care and training in interdisciplinary, community-based settings, they are the only federal programs designed to fill gaps in the supply of health professionals, respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, and increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

The Title VII programs have a longstanding history of helping the health workforce adapt to the nation’s changing health care needs. Today, the programs help strengthen the supply of primary care professionals while also preparing the next generation of providers to deliver high-quality, team-based care. The programs are also critical to help advance timely priorities, such as strengthening education and training opportunities in geriatrics to better care for the nation’s aging population, as well as integrating mental and behavioral health and oral health into primary care delivery. For example, some Title VII grantees are focusing on interprofessional geriatrics training for non-geriatric health professionals; effective care transitions and chronic care management for seniors; or education and training around Alzheimer’s disease, with an emphasis on prevention and early detection, among many other initiatives. Additionally, the programs are working to close the gap in access to mental and behavioral health care services with a focus on underserved communities, including our nation’s veterans.
At a time when the country is facing unprecedented provider shortages, as well as a rapidly growing and aging population, a strong commitment to the Title VII programs is necessary. Sustained support for these programs will ensure that the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce continue to improve and that the workforce is prepared to meet the country’s evolving and emerging health care needs. We respectfully urge you to make the nation’s next generation of health professionals a priority with a strong investment in the Title VII programs in the FY 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,