



October 30, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Rogers, and Ranking Members Mikulski and Lowey:

With the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA), the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) strongly urges you to provide the largest possible 302(b) allocation to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. HPNEC is an informal alliance of more than 60 national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of the country's growing, aging, and diverse population.

Providing the largest possible allocation will allow Congress to fully fund the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs. Titles VII and VIII are the only federally-funded programs that seek to improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health professions workforce, with an emphasis on primary care and interdisciplinary training. By providing educational and training opportunities to aspiring and practicing health professionals, the programs also play a critical role in helping the workforce adapt to meet the nation's changing health care needs.

To enable the programs to realize these goals, HPNEC recommends a final FY 2016 spending bill that provides the higher of the House Committee- and Senate Committee-approved funding levels for each Title VII and Title VIII program, and no less than the FY 2015 level for each program. A robust 302(b) allocation will be essential to allow full funding for these critical programs.

HPNEC is grateful for your longstanding support for these programs, and urges you to build on the bipartisan process by providing the largest possible 302(b) allocation for the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee to allow for a much-needed reinvestment in Title VII and Title VIII programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tannaz Rasouli'.

Tannaz Rasouli
Co-Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clayton Crabtree'.

Clayton Crabtree
Co-Executive Director