March 29, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin  The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education on Labor, HHS and Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building 131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Kingston The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairman Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education on Labor, HHS and Education
2358 Rayburn House Office Building 2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Kingston and Ranking Members Moran and DeLauro:

The undersigned members of the Friends of HRSA urge you to provide at least $7.0 billion for discretionary Health Resources and Services Administration programs in the FY 2014 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. We are deeply concerned with the failure to avert the sequester that will cut over $300 million from HRSA’s FY 2013 discretionary funding. These cuts come on top of the 17 percent or more than $1.2 billion reduction to HRSA’s budget authority since FY 2010. The recommended funding level takes into account the need to reduce the nation’s deficit while prioritizing the immediate and long-term health needs of Americans.

The Friends of HRSA is a non-partisan coalition of broad 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 health programs receive the support necessary to carry out their mission to improve health and achieve health equity through access to quality services and a skilled health care workforce.

While we recognize the reality of the current fiscal climate, our request of $7.0 billion represents the minimum amount necessary for HRSA to continue to meet the health care needs of the American public. Continued reductions in funding will severely compromise HRSA’s ability to prevent sickness, keep people healthy and treat illness or injury. Our requested minimum level of funding will allow the agency to carry out critical public health programs and services that reach millions of Americans, including training for public health and health care professionals, providing primary care services through community health centers, improving access to care for rural communities, supporting maternal and child health care programs, providing health care to people living with HIV/AIDS and many more. HRSA operates programs in every state and U.S. territory and is a national leader in providing quality health services. Roughly 55 million Americans are currently uninsured and more than 60 million live in rural communities where primary health care services are scarce. The
agency serves as a health safety net to fill these gaps and works to improve the health of the medically vulnerable, low-income and geographically isolated populations.

We urge you to consider HRSA’s role in strengthening the nation’s health safety net programs and ensuring that underserved populations receive quality health services. By supporting, planning for and adapting to our nation’s growing, aging and increasingly diverse population and changes within our health care system, we can build on the successes of the past and address any gaps that may emerge in the future.

Sincerely,

American Association of Nurse Practitioners
Academic Pediatric Association
AIDS Project Los Angeles
AIDS United
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Heart Association
American Medical Student Association
American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Red Cross
American Society for Microbiology
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of Academic Health Centers
Association of Accredited Public Health Programs
Association of Accredited Public Health Programs (AAPHP)
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs (AMSPDC)
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Centering Healthcare Institute
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
Coalition for Health Funding
Cooley’s Anemia Foundation
Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Family Voices
GBS/CIDP Foundation International
Healthy Teen Network
HIV Medicine Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders
Interstitial Cystitis Association
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Joint Advocacy Coalition of ACRT, APOR, CRF, and SCTS
March of Dimes
Meharry Medical College
Morehouse School of Medicine
NAADAC Association for Addiction Professionals
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Black Nurses Association
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Disability Rights Network
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Kidney Foundation
National League for Nursing
National Marfan Foundation
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Prevent Blindness America
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Sleep Research Society
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
The AIDS Institute
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health
U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee
    House Appropriations Committee