

# Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration

c/o American Public Health Association

<http://www.friendsofhrsa.org>

202-777-2513

March 29, 2013

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

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

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, HHS and Education  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
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