



June XX, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Cole and Blunt and Ranking Members DeLauro and Murray:

The undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to recommend \$580 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs in the fiscal year 2018 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill. With the FY 2017 Omnibus Appropriations Act adding Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) to Title VII, the FY 2018 HPNEC recommendation also includes funding for that program.

HPNEC is an alliance of national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce of tomorrow has the training and resources needed to adequately serve the country's healthcare needs, including those in the most underserved communities.

Current and growing workforce shortages remain a healthcare access barrier for individuals in rural communities, children and families on low incomes, seniors, and veterans. Title VII and Title VIII are the only federally-funded programs that seek to improve the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health professions workforce, with a focus on primary care and interdisciplinary training. These programs help shape the workforce in targeted ways, such as promoting interprofessional, team-based care; promoting service in underserved areas; and filling other gaps in the health care workforce.

The full spectrum of Title VII and Title VIII programs is essential to prepare our next generation of medical professions to adapt to the changing health care needs of the nation's growing and aging population. By assessing the needs of the communities they serve, Title VII and Title VIII programs

bring together knowledge and skills across disciplines to provide effective, efficient, and coordinated care.

While HPNEC recognizes the challenges you face in the constrained budget environment, we urge you to ensure the next generation of health professionals is equipped to address the nation's health care complexities by providing \$580 million for Titles VII and VIII in FY 2018.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Dental Research
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Pediatric Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools (AMHPS)
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Coalition of Urban Serving Universities
Council on Social Work Education
Emergency Nurses Association
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National League for Nursing

National Network of Health Career Programs in Two Year Colleges
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Pediatric Policy Council
Physician Assistant Education Association
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine