November 22, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Leahy, Chair DeLauro, Vice Chair Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger:

On behalf of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), I write to urge Congress to provide at least the House-passed level of $980 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs for fiscal year (FY) 2022. The House-passed levels are an essential first step in achieving HPNEC’s recommendation of providing $1.51 billion for the Titles VII and VIII programs.

HPNEC also urges members to finalize the FY 2022 spending packages as soon as possible and avoid additional continuing resolutions. We remain concerned that current funding levels for the chronically underfunded HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs will hinder our nation's ability to educate current and future providers to serve the needs of all patients.

HPNEC is an alliance of over 90 national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to training our nation's health care workforce to meet the needs of our population. Together, the members of HPNEC advocate for continued support for the health professions and nursing workforce development programs authorized under Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act and administered by HRSA.

The COVID-19 pandemic has pulled back the curtain on the health inequities facing patients across the country, including those from diverse, economically disadvantaged, and rural backgrounds. To ensure that all patients receive quality care health care providers must be able to appropriately treat patients from all backgrounds to meet the needs of the high-risk communities.
The HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs have proven successful in recruiting, training, and supporting public health practitioners, nurses, geriatricians, mental health providers, and other front-line health care workers critical to addressing COVID-19. In addition, many of the programs target participants from diverse, economically disadvantaged, and rural backgrounds. Establishing a health workforce with providers from these backgrounds improves patients’ access to care and satisfaction and bettering health professions learning environments.

Additionally, we need to make sure that our health care system meets the ever-changing needs of patients across the country. Through developing new curriculum to address emerging public health crises, such as substance use disorders, or collaborating with community leaders in educating providers to deliver culturally competent care, to utilizing telehealth as a way to connect with patients, the Title VII and Title VIII programs help ensure our health workforce is at the forefront of new health care delivery systems and models of care.

Congress must increase investment in the Title VII and Title VIII programs to combat pervasive health inequities as seen in the COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare the health workforce for the health care demands of tomorrow. To that end, HPNEC urges you to provide at least the House passed values of $980 million for Titles VII and VIII in FY 2022 to ensure our health workforce meets the needs of all patients.

If you have any questions, please contact do not hesitate to contact me or Brett Roude at broude@aamc.org or 202-753-5726.

Sincerely,
Matthew Shick
Executive Director

Cc: House of Representatives Appropriations Committee
Cc: States Appropriations Committee
Members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition

- Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health
- Academic Pediatric Association
- Allergy & Asthma Network
- Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
- American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
- American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
- American Academy of PAs
- American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Association of Dental Research
- American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry
- 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 Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training
- American Association of Nurse Practitioners
- American College of Cardiology
- American College of Osteopathic Internists
- American College of Physicians
- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American Dental Association
- American Dental Education Association
- American Dental Hygienists’ Association
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Geriatrics Society
- American Medical Student Association
- American Medical Women's Association
- American Music Therapy Association
- American Nephrology Nurses Association
- American Occupational Therapy Association
- American Pediatric Society
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Psychological Association
- American Public Health Association
- American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
- American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM)
- American Surgical Association
- America's Essential Hospitals
- Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
- Association of American Indian Physicians
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
- Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology
- Association of Chiropractic Colleges
- Association of Chairs of Departments of Family Medicine
- Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
- Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
- Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
- Association of Pathology Chairs
- Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers
- Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
- Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
- Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions
- Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology
CAEAR Coalition
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP)
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Social Work Education
Eldercare Workforce Alliance
Health Professions Network
Heart Failure Society of America
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA)
HIV Medicine Association
Latino Medical Student Association
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Nurse Practitioner's in Women's Health (NPWH)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Council for Diversity in Health Professions
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Medical Association
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Pediatric Policy Council
Physician Assistant Education Association
Pre-Health Dreamers
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Student National Medical Association (SNMA)