



November 26, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

The Honorable Nita Lowey
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. 20510

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

The 60 undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) write to restate the coalition's recommendation of \$690 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs for fiscal year (FY) 2020. While the Senate proposed \$633.5 million for current Title VII and Title VIII in FY 2020, we are encouraged by the \$680 million allocated for the programs that passed by the House of Representatives earlier this summer.

HPNEC is an alliance of national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of our population. The Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs are structured to allow grantees to test educational innovations, respond to changing delivery systems and models of care, and address timely health threats in their communities.

With the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 ([Public Law 116-37](#)) Congress has the ability to increase investment in our nation's health workforce. HPNEC encourages Congress to work in a bipartisan, bicameral manner to pass legislation that helps vulnerable patients by prioritizing the supply, distribution, and diversity of our nation's health care workforce.

While we appreciate proposed increases to the Area Health Education Centers and nursing workforce programs, we are deeply disappointed to see the proposed elimination of \$14.2 million for the **Health Career Opportunity Program (HCOP)** in the Senate Labor-HHS-Education spending bill. The Title VII HCOP pipeline program helps ensure a culturally competent workforce to meet the needs of our growing population. National HCOP academies encourage more than 10,000 students from diverse backgrounds including underrepresented minorities, rural, veterans, and other economically disadvantaged students annually to pursue a career in the health professions. We appreciate that **the House bill provided \$20 million for the HCOP programs in FY 2020.**

As we face nationwide health professional shortages, it is crucial that we continue to enhance the federal commitment to the programs that help the next generation of providers stay ahead of the increasing health care challenges of our country. The scholarships, loan repayment programs, grants and contracts provided to academic institutions, students, and non-profit organizations through Title VII and VIII programs are essential in attempting to fill the gaps in the supply of health professionals not met by traditional market forces.

While HPNEC recognizes the difficulty you face in a constrained budget environment, **we continue to urge you to provide \$690 million or at least the House levels for the current programs under Titles VII and VIII in FY 2020** to help ensure the U.S. health workforce is equipped to address the nation's health care challenges.

For any questions regarding our request, please contact Brett Roude at broude@aamc.org or 202-753-5726.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of PAs
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
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 Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Student Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Chiropractic 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
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Social Work Education
Eldercare Workforce Alliance
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacist Association
International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Medical Association
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
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
Student National Medical Association

cc: Senate Appropriations Committee
House Appropriations Committee