



June 23, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader McConnell, House Minority Leader McCarthy, and Senate Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), I write to thank you for Congress's continued efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Investing in our health workforce is paramount in addressing public health crises by testing new models of care and training future providers. The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce programs play an essential role in training and preparing members of our health workforce who are at the forefront of fighting this pandemic.

HPNEC continues to recommend \$790 million for these programs in FY 2021, and **we urge Congress to provide at least \$367 million in no-year supplemental emergency funding without expiration for Title VII and Title VIII that supports our current and future health workforce as you develop COVID-19 relief legislation.**

HPNEC is an alliance of 80 national organizations representing schools, students, health professionals, and communities dedicated to ensuring that the health care workforce is educated and trained to meet the needs of all patients.

The HRSA Titles VII and VIII programs are structured to respond to changing delivery systems and models of care, such as telehealth, while expediently addressing immediate health threats in all communities. With COVID-19 disproportionately impacting racial and ethnic minorities, these programs are aimed to mitigate health disparities across race and ethnicities, and recruit and train culturally competent health workforce. The supplemental emergency funds would support:

- **Public Health Workforce Development** programs, which train America's public health workforce to identify underlying causes of health issues, new disease strains, health disparities, and other public health issues vital to the country's response to any pandemic.

- **Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development** programs, which is the primary source of federal funding for our country's nursing workforce and ensure that our nurses have the resources they need and that our future nursing workforce pipeline remains strong.
- **Primary Care Medicine and Oral Health Training** programs which improves the access and quality of health care in underserved areas by training general internists, family medicine practitioners, general pediatricians, oral health providers, and physician assistants.
- **Area Health Education Centers, Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Programs, and Geriatrics Academic Career Awards** which supports interdisciplinary, community- based training programs for healthcare professionals, providing support for health care delivery in rural and urban underserved areas
- **Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program, Mental and Substance Use Disorders Workforce Training Demonstration Program, and the Graduate Psychology Education Program**, as the nation's demand for mental health and substance use support is expected to increase dramatically.
- **Health Professions Training for Diversity** Area Health Education Centers, Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Programs, and Geriatrics Academic Career Awards, which supports interdisciplinary, community- based training programs for healthcare professionals, provides support for health care delivery in rural and urban underserved areas.
- **Minority Faculty Loan Repayment, Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment, and Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment programs**, which helps ensure that existing disparities of providers, particularly in underserved areas, are not exacerbated by disruptions in hiring caused by the current financial crisis in the health care system.
- **Health Professions Workforce Information and Analysis**, which advises future decision-making on America's health workforce during times of crisis.

As organizations representing health care workers on the frontlines of the battle against COVID-19, we understand the current challenges facing our workforce, and the need to invest in new models of health care delivery to meet the needs of all patients. Since the Title VII and Title VIII programs are structured to address health threats in all communities, this additional funding will ensure that our nation has a robust health workforce positioned to fight COVID-19 and future public health crises.

Again, HPNEC appreciates your efforts to combat COVID-19, and we look forward to partnering with you in this response. If you have any questions, please contact Brett Roude from my staff at broude@aamc.org or 202-753-5726.

Sincerely,
Matthew Shick
Executive Director

Cc: United States House of Representatives
Cc: United States Senate

Members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition

Academic Pediatric Association	Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine	Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry	Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions
American Academy of Family Physicians	Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
American Academy of PAs	Association of University Professors of Neurology
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry	Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
American Academy of Pediatrics	College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists
American Association for Dental Research	Council of Graduate Schools
American Association of Colleges of Nursing	Council on Social Work Education
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine	Eldercare Workforce Alliance
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy	Emergency Nurses Association
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine	Health Professions Network
American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training	Hematology/Oncology Pharmacist Association
American Association of Nurse Practitioners	International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium
American College of Cardiology	National AHEC Organization
American College of Osteopathic Internists	National Association for Geriatric Education
American College of Physicians	National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
American College of Preventive Medicine	National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
American Dental Association	National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
American Dental Education Association	National Athletic Trainers' Association
American Federation of Teachers	National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
American Geriatrics Society	National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
American Medical Student Association	National Hispanic Medical Association
American Music Therapy Association	National League of Nursing
American Neurological Association	National Medical Association
American Occupational Therapy Association	National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
American Organization for Nursing Leadership	North American Primary Care Research Group
American Pediatric Society	Oncology Nursing Society
American Psychiatric Association	Pediatric Policy Council
American Psychological Association	Physician Assistant Education Association
American Public Health Association	Pre-Health Dreamers
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science	Society for Pediatric Research
American Society for Clinical Pathology	Society of General Internal Medicine
American Society for Reproductive Medicine	Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
American Surgical Association	Student National Medical Association
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 Departments of Family Medicine	
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors	
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs	
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools	