



For Immediate Release

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HPNEC Statement Expressing Concern with Massive Cuts to Health Workforce Programs Proposed in the Full Fiscal Year 2026 President's Budget Request

June 6, 2025 - *The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) issued the following statement expressing concern with proposed cuts to critical health workforce programs included in the fiscal year (FY) 2026 President's Budget Request:*

The President's recently released FY 2026 budget request recommends a massive \$1 billion proposed cut to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) health workforce programs, including the proposed elimination of 15 health workforce programs, which will have a significant and detrimental impact on the health of communities across the country if enacted. These proposed cuts would undermine HRSA's ability to recruit and retain a health workforce equipped to meet the health care demands of tomorrow by eliminating essential investments in education, training, and mentorship opportunities. As communities face shortages of health professionals, these devastating cuts would also limit access to care for patients nationwide.

The health professions and nursing workforce development programs authorized under Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act and administered by HRSA play an irreplaceable role in shaping, educating, and bolstering the health workforce at all stages of the continuum. Whether it is establishing pathways into health careers, fortifying primary and specialty care workforces, enhancing interdisciplinary care and community-based linkages, addressing the full spectrum of nursing workforce demands, sustaining vital public health and oral health workforces, or implementing evidence-informed health care workplace strategies — each of these programs play a unique and integral role in cultivating a strong, robust health workforce. Continued funding and support for all the existing Title VII and VIII programs is necessary to address health workforce shortages in critical areas of need and ensure access to care across the nation.

HPNEC urges Congress to reject any funding cuts to the HRSA health workforce programs proposed in the President's FY 2026 budget request, and to continue to support, fund, and

protect these critical programs. Now is the time to commit fully to the health workforce and not settle for anything less.

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The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) is an alliance of more than 90 national organizations representing schools, students, health professionals, and communities dedicated to ensuring that the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of our entire population. Together, the members of HPNEC advocate for adequate and 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. Additional information about HPNEC is available at hp nec.org.