



November 24, 2020

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

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. 20515

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

On behalf of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), I write to restate the coalition's recommendation of \$790 million for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs for fiscal year (FY) 2021.

HPNEC is an alliance of over 80 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 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.

The federal investment in training future providers and testing new models of care is paramount in addressing public health crises. The HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs play an essential role in training and preparing members of our health workforce who are at the forefront of fighting COVID-19. The programs develop our workforce by using innovative approaches of interprofessional care and telehealth, which are vital in caring for our most vulnerable populations nationwide.

HPNEC appreciates the proposed increases to Title VII and Title VIII in the House and Senate Labor-HHS bills. However, **we oppose the Senate's proposed elimination of \$15 million for the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP)** and urge Congress to fund all previously appropriated Title VII and Title VIII programs.

The Titles VII and VIII programs help ensure a culturally competent workforce to meet our growing population's needs, especially those from underrepresented minority, rural, geriatric, veteran, and other economically or educationally disadvantaged communities. Eliminating any of the programs could reduce the supply of health providers for these vulnerable populations.

We also continue to recommend that Congress provides at least \$367 million in no-year supplemental emergency funding without expiration for Title VII and Title VIII in the next COVID-19 relief bill. With the programs structured to address health threats in all communities, this additional funding will ensure that our nation's health workforce is positioned to continue fighting COVID-19, as well as future public health crises.

As our nation continues to face public health challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring the U.S. health workforce is equipped to address the nation's health care complexities is more critical now than ever. **HPNEC urges you to provide \$790 million for Titles VII and VIII in FY 2021 and fund all existing programs** to continue Congress' sustained investment in our health workforce.

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: United States House of Representatives
Cc: United States Senate

Members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition

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