



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](mailto: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