



December 6, 2022

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

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

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
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 Leahy, Chair DeLauro, Vice Chair Shelby, and Ranking Member Granger:

On behalf of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), we urge Congress to **provide at least the higher of the two funding levels from the draft House and Senate Labor-HHS-Ed spending bill for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs for fiscal year (FY) 2023**. Providing the higher of the two levels is an essential first step in achieving HPNEC's recommendation of providing \$1.51 billion for the Titles VII and VIII programs.

HPNEC is an alliance of over 90 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 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.

HPNEC also urges members to finalize the FY 2023 spending packages as soon as possible and avoid additional continuing resolutions. We remain concerned that current funding levels for the chronically underfunded HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs will hinder our nation's ability to educate current and future providers to serve the needs of all patients.

The COVID-19 pandemic demanded a lot of our health workforce and learners, leaving many burned out and exhausted. We are grateful for the Committees' proposed funding for the new Preventing Burnout in the Health Workforce program, authorized by the Lorna Breen Health

Care Provider Protection Act (P.L. 117-105). With a flu epidemic, RSV, and an impending winter COVID-19 surge, it is imperative to equip our health workforce with the support they need.

The HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs have proven successful in recruiting, training, and supporting mental health providers, nurses, public health practitioners, geriatricians, and other front-line health care workers critical to addressing COVID-19. In addition, many of these programs target participants from diverse, economically disadvantaged, and rural backgrounds. Establishing a health workforce with providers from these backgrounds improves patients' access to care and satisfaction and enhances health professions learning environments.

Additionally, we need to make sure that our health care system meets the ever-changing needs of patients across the country. Through developing new curriculum to address emerging public health crises, such as substance use disorders, or collaborating with community leaders in educating providers to deliver culturally competent care, to utilizing telehealth as a way to connect with patients, the Title VII and Title VIII programs help ensure our health workforce is at the forefront of new health care delivery systems and models of care.

Congress must increase investment in the Title VII and Title VIII programs to combat pervasive health inequities as seen in the COVID-19 pandemic and to prepare the health workforce for the health care demands of tomorrow. To that end, **HPNEC urges you to provide at least the higher of the two proposed funding amounts for Titles VII and VIII in FY 2023** to ensure our health workforce meets the needs of all patients.

If you have any questions, please contact do not hesitate to contact me or Katherine Cruz at kcruz@aamc.org.

Sincerely,
Matthew Shick
Executive Director

CC: Congressional Leadership

Members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition

Academic Consortium for Integrative
Medicine & Health
Academic Pediatric Association
Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
(AAIM)
American Academy of Addiction
Psychiatry
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma
and Immunology
American Academy of Family
Physicians
American Academy of Hospice and
Palliative Medicine
American Academy of PAs
American Academy of Pediatric
Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental
Research
American Association of Chairs of
Departments of Psychiatry
American Association of Colleges of
Nursing
American Association of Colleges of
Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of
Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of
Podiatric Medicine
American Association of Directors of
Psychiatric Residency Training
American Association of Nurse
Practitioners
American Association of Psychiatric
Pharmacists
American College of Cardiology
American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic
Internists

American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive
Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists'
Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Student Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Nephrology Nurses
Association
American Occupational Therapy
Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical
Laboratory Science
American Society for Reproductive
Medicine (ASRM)
American Surgical Association
America's Essential Hospitals
Association of Academic Health
Sciences Libraries
Association of American Indian
Physicians
Association of American Medical
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Association of American Veterinary
Medical Colleges
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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
Association of Pathology Chairs
Association of Psychologists in
Academic Health Centers
Association of Public and Land-grant
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Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Schools Advancing
Health Professions
Association of Schools and Colleges of
Optometry
Association of University Professors of
Ophthalmology
CAEAR Coalition
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Social Work Education
Eldercare Workforce Alliance
Health Professions Network
Heart Failure Society of America
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy
Association (HOPA)
HIV Medicine Association
Latino Medical Student Association
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric
Education
National Association of Community
Health Centers
National Association of Geriatric
Education Centers
National Association of Nurse
Practitioner's in Women's Health
(NPWH)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Council for Diversity in Health
Professions
National Family Planning &
Reproductive Health Association

National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Medical Association
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
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Practitioner Faculties
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Association
Pre-Health Dreamers
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of Behavioral Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Student National Medical Association
(SNMA)