

September 25, 2017

The Honorable Michael Burgess
Chair
Subcommittee on Health
Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Burgess:

The undersigned organizations would like to thank you for your support of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions programs, by introducing the “Educating Medical Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency and Readiness Act of 2017” or “EMPOWER Act” (H.R. 3728) which reauthorizes all of the programs with expired authorizations through fiscal year (FY) 2022. While we greatly appreciate both your efforts on this important issue and your bill which reauthorizes most of the programs at their FY 2017 enacted levels, we recommend the Title VII programs receive an allocation of \$336 million for FY 2018 to continue their important work shaping our health care workforce.

Collectively, we represent a variety of schools, programs, students, and health professionals which are dedicated to ensuring the health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of the country’s growing and aging population. Title VII programs help shape the workforce in targeted ways by promoting service in underserved areas and filling workforce gaps which are not addressed through traditional workforce channels. As communities across the nation struggle to cope with health care professional shortages, we commend you for taking this step to preserve the United States’ federal investment in the health care workforce.

As you know, Title VII workforce programs are a petri dish for innovation that utilize interdisciplinary training models to prepare our current and future health care professionals to deliver care that meets the nation’s constantly changing needs. Title VII programs increase the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health care workforce and improve access to primary care for children and families living on low incomes, veterans, seniors, and other individuals with disadvantaged backgrounds.

Again, we thank you for your continued support of the Title VII programs by introducing the EMPOWER Act. We look forward to working with you to prioritize continued support for these programs to ensure the health care workforce meets the needs of all Americans.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of PAs
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
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 Organization of Nurse Executives
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
Association of American Colleges of Nursing
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Schools Allied Health Professions
Council on Social Work Education
Eldercare Workforce Alliance
International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Athletic Trainers' Association
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
North American Primary Care Research Group
Physician Assistant Education Association
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine