



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
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
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 Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Cardiology
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Student Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Neurological Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Organization for Nursing Leadership
American Pediatric Society
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Surgical Association
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
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
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 Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of University Professors of Neurology
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists
Council of Graduate Schools
Council on Social Work Education
Eldercare Workforce Alliance
Emergency Nurses Association
Health Professions Network
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacist Association
International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
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 of 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
Pre-Health Dreamers
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Student National Medical Association