



January 29, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Chair Granger, Vice Chair Collins, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As Congress takes steps to consider funding for fiscal year (FY) 2024, the members of Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) urge you to work in a bipartisan manner to **provide the highest possible funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs for fiscal year (FY) 2024.**

HPNEC is an alliance of more than 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 members appreciate that the newly announced tiered FY 2024 CR deal into March that would allow the annual spending bills to proceed. However, we remain concerned that current funding levels for the chronically underfunded HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs will worsen health workforce shortages and hinder our nation's ability to educate current and future providers. Ensuring that our health workforce is equipped to serve the nation's ever-growing needs and is prepared for the health care demands of tomorrow is an urgent, key national priority.

At a minimum, HPNEC members urge you to start with the \$877.8 million funding level proposed in the Senate's FY 24 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related

Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill. Furthermore, we urge Congress to finalize the FY 2024 spending packages as soon as possible and avoid problematic policy provisions that would impose arbitrary restrictions on efforts to fortify a strong public health workforce.

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 the nation's health needs. 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.

We are pleased that the Senate's FY 24 LHHS bill increases investment in the Title VII geriatrics and Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training programs and in the Title VIII Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention and Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment programs. We also appreciate the bill's continued funding for the Title VII and VIII diversity pathway programs. Studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of such pathway programs in strengthening students' academic records, improving test scores, and helping disadvantaged students pursue careers in the health professions. In contrast, the House FY 24 LHHS spending bill would eliminate funding for Title VII Centers of Excellence, the Health Careers Opportunity Program, and the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Diversity Program, and includes other damaging policy riders that would hamper efforts to connect students from rural, underrepresented, and disadvantaged backgrounds to health careers.

Congress must ensure a robust investment in the Title VII and Title VIII programs to address health workforce shortages and to prepare the health workforce for the health care demands of tomorrow. To that end, **HPNEC urges you to provide the highest possible funding for HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Katherine Cruz, Legislative Analyst with AAMC, at kcruz@aamc.org, or Andrea Price-Carter, Director of Health Equity Advocacy and Government Relations with AAMC, at apricecarter@aamc.org.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of PAs
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial 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 Naturopathic Physicians
American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP)
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American College of Academic Addiction Medicine (ACAAM)
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American College of Rheumatology
American Council of Academic Physical Therapy
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Student Association
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society For Clinical Laboratory Science
American Society for Clinical Pathology
Association of Academic Chairs of Emergency Medicine
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges
Association of American Indian Physicians
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Bioethics Program Directors
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 Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools (AMHPS)
Association of Pathology Chairs
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of the Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU)
Association of University Programs in Health Administration
Children's Hospital Association
Council on Social Work Education
Eldercare Workforce Alliance
Heart Failure Society of America
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association (HOPA)
Medical Organization for Latino Advancement
National AHEC Organization (NAO)
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Council for Diversity in Health Professions (NCDHP)
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Medical Association
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
PA Education Association
Pediatric Policy Council
Pre-Health Dreamers
Rheumatology Nurses Society
Social Mission Alliance
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Society of University Surgeons
South Asian Public Health Association
Student National Medical Association

CC: Congressional Leadership