



October 24, 2007

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The undersigned organizations write to urge you to provide at least \$228 million for Title VII health professions programs and \$170 million for Title VIII nursing workforce development programs in the FY 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. These appropriations levels provide for partial restoration of some Title VII programs (the Health Careers Opportunity Programs and the Centers of Excellence) and provide vital support for nursing education programs.

In FY 2006, funding for the Title VII programs was drastically reduced by 51 percent. For most of the programs, these funding levels were maintained in the FY 2007 Joint Funding Resolution, causing health professions programs across the nation to cease their activities. Though \$228 million for Title VII does not fully recover the lost primary care, allied health, rural training, and other grants, it is an important step toward restoring the Title VII programs to the FY 2005 level of \$300 million.

While we understand there are many competing priorities in the FY 2008 bill, it is essential that Congress reverse the enacted cuts to the health professions programs to help resolve systemic workforce shortages and deliver care to our nation's most vulnerable communities. Supporting the Title VII and VIII programs is an investment in the health professions workforce and the health of the nation. We urge you to provide at least \$228 million for Title VII and \$170 million for Title VIII programs in the FY 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill.

Your support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you to ensure the continuation of congressional support for these critical programs that are necessary to preserving the health and well-being of the American people.

Sincerely,

Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
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 Community Colleges
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Student Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Association of Academic Health Centers
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 Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of University Programs in Health Administration
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses
National Area Health Education Centers Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.
National Council for Diversity in Health Professions
National Hispanic Medical Association
National League for Nursing
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges
National Rural Health Association
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine