



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](mailto:kcruz@aamc.org), or Andrea Price-Carter, Director of Health Equity Advocacy and Government Relations with AAMC, at [apricecarter@aamc.org](mailto: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