



January XX, 2011

Dear Representative/Senator:

The Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) would like to congratulate you on the start of the 112th Congress. HPNEC is an alliance of over 60 national organizations representing schools, programs, health professionals, and students dedicated to ensuring the nation's health care workforce is trained to meet the needs of our diverse populations. As you finalize FY 2011 appropriations, we encourage you to prioritize the nation's health care workforce through a strong investment in the Health Resources and Services Administration's health professions programs, authorized under Title VII and Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act.

The Title VII and Title VIII health professions and nursing programs provide education and training opportunities to a wide variety of health care professionals, both preparing them for career opportunities in the health professions and helping to bring health care services to our rural and underserved communities. The Title VII and Title VIII programs are the only federal programs designed to train health care providers in interdisciplinary settings to meet the needs of the country's special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

By improving the supply, distribution, and diversity of the nation's health care professionals, the Title VII and Title VIII programs not only prepare aspiring professionals to meet the nation's workforce needs, but also help to improve access to care across all populations. The multi-year nature of health professions education and training, coupled with unprecedented existing and looming provider shortages across many disciplines and in many rural and underserved communities, necessitate a strong, continued, and reliable investment in the Title VII and Title VIII programs.

We recognize the fiscal difficulties facing the nation and we urge you to support the Title VII and Title VIII health professions programs. An investment in these programs is not only an investment in the future of the health workforce, but in the future health and productivity of the nation. Providing adequate funding for Titles VII and VIII not only will help improve patient care, but also will prepare individuals for careers in the health professions and fill vacancies where it's most needed. We wish you the best during the 112th Congress and look forward to working with you on these important programs.

Sincerely,

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