



November 5, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

As Congress takes steps to consider funding for fiscal year (FY) 2026, the undersigned members of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC)¹ urge you to work in a bipartisan manner to finalize the FY 2026 Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) bill with robust funding for the health workforce and **provide the highest possible funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs.** Specifically, we urge you to provide the higher amount of the House and Senate Committee-approved funding levels for each of the individual Title VII and VIII programs.

The HRSA Title VII and VIII programs successfully recruit, train, and support physicians, physician assistants, nurses, dentists, geriatricians, mental and behavioral health providers, public health practitioners, social workers, and other frontline health care workers critical to addressing the nation's health needs. Each of these programs play a unique role in educating current and future providers to work across the country — including in rural and underserved areas — advancing new delivery systems and interprofessional and integrated models of care.

¹ HPNEC is an alliance of 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 both of the Labor-HHS bills approved by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees include funding for the Title VII and Title VIII programs that will allow the Bureau of Health Workforce to strengthen the health workforce and connect skilled physicians and health care providers to communities in need. However, HPNEC members remain concerned that chronic underfunding for the HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs will worsen health workforce shortages and hinder our nation's ability to educate current and future providers. Robust funding for the health workforce is integral in ensuring that our health workforce is equipped to serve the nation's ever-growing needs and prepared for the health care demands of tomorrow.

Support Continued and Increased Investments for the HRSA Title VII and VIII Programs

We are grateful the Senate bill includes level funding for most of the Title VII and VIII programs, and we are also pleased with the House bill's increased investments in the Title VII Oral Health Training and Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training programs, and the Title VIII Advanced Nursing Education and Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention programs. Further, the House bill includes an increased investment in the Medical Student Education (MSE) program, which provides grants to institutions in states with the most severe primary care provider shortages to expand or support graduate education for physicians. Additional and sustained investment in the Title VII and VIII programs is essential to maintaining and building a strong and robust workforce.

Reject Cuts to the Title VII and VIII Pathway, Public Health and Medical Student Education Programs

While HPNEC members appreciate the increased funding of select programs in the House Labor-HHS bill and the maintained funding levels in the Senate bill, we recommend that any increases to the programs are not with detriment or cuts to other programs.

Of note, the House bill proposes the elimination of funding for the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Diversity program and Nursing Faculty Loan Program, which help recruit and retain students to the nursing profession by supporting entry into nursing programs and graduate students to serve as faculty. Moreover, the House bill does not provide funding for the Title VII Public Health Training Centers, which support the development and implementation of training focused on regional public health needs. We are also concerned about the Senate bill's cut to the MSE program and the impact on access to care for the communities that need it most. Both bills also include cuts to the Centers of Excellence and the Health Careers Opportunity Program, key pathway programs that help connect students from different backgrounds, including individuals from rural and urban areas to health careers.

A strong investment in the Title VII and VIII programs is essential to helping address health workforce shortages in critical areas of need and shape the future health workforce at all stages

of the continuum. 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 Andrea Price-Carter, HPNEC Executive Director, at apricecarter@aamc.org, or Emily Prest, HPNEC Coalition Manager, at eprest@aamc.org.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Associates
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 Podiatric Medicine
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Education Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association Services, Inc.
American Public Health Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Children's Hospital Association
Council on Social Work Education
Heart Failure Society of America

National AHEC Organization
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Geriatric Education Centers
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Council for Diversity in Health Professions
National Hispanic Health Foundation
National League for Nursing
National Medical Fellowships
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
Oncology Nursing Society
PA Education Association
Pediatric Policy Council
Society for Pediatric Research
The Society of General Internal Medicine

cc: The Honorable Robert Aderholt
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
The Honorable Tammy Baldwin