



CIRCULATING FOR ENDORSEMENTS

October X, 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, 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

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.

providers to work across the country — including in rural and underserved areas — advancing new delivery systems and interprofessional and integrated models of care.

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,

[Signatories, as of date]

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