



December 6, 2006

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations write to urge you to fund fully the health professions education programs by providing at least \$300 million for Title VII health professions programs and \$175 million for Title VIII nursing programs in the FY 2007 budget. The FY 2007 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bills in both the House (H.R. 5647, H. Rept. 109-515) and the Senate (S. 3708, S. Rept. 109-287) eliminate or seriously under funded these programs that are necessary to preserving the health and well-being of the American people.

The FY 2006 budget cut funding for the Title VII programs by 51.5 percent, which includes the elimination of funding for geriatric training, Health Education and Training Centers, and the Quentin Burdick Rural Program for Interdisciplinary training. The budget also drastically cut funding for primary care training and virtually eliminated funding for the Health Careers Opportunity Program and the Centers of Excellence, two of the diversity programs under Title VII. These and other Title VII and VIII programs are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to meet the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

While we understand there are many competing priorities in the FY 2007 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. We urge you to restore funding to the Title VII health professions programs to at least the FY 2005 level of \$300 million, and to provide \$175 million for the Title VIII nursing programs during consideration of the FY 2007 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.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry  
Administrators of Internal Medicine  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
Ambulatory Pediatric Association  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of HIV Medicine  
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 College of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Physical Therapy 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 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 Professors of Medicine  
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine  
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
Association of University Programs in Health Administration  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses  
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine  
Community-Campus Partnerships for Health  
Council of Accredited MPH Programs  
Medicine-Pediatrics Program Directors Association  
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 of Centers of Excellence  
National League for Nursing  
National Network of Health Career Programs in Two-Year Colleges  
National Rural Health Association

North American Primary Care Research Group  
Society for Adolescent Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
Student National Medical Association