

FY 2007 Wrap up and FY 2008 Appropriations Update

In February, despite the health community's best efforts, Congress did not restore funding to the Centers of Excellence or Health Careers Opportunities programming in the final funding resolution to carry federal programs through September of this year. An updated funding chart for health professions funding programming can be found online at the [HPNEC: Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition](#)'s website.

NAMME did participate in efforts to raise awareness about the immediate need for funding restoration for health professions funding with a letter from NAMME president John Cottrell being sent to Congress on February 12, 2007.

President Bush released his proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 budget in early February. The president proposed a near elimination of all Title VII programming and significant cuts to Title VII nursing programs. The only Title VII program to survive the proposal was Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) with a recommended funding level of \$10 million, down from just under \$47 million in FY 2006. Nursing programs would sustain a \$44 million cut under the proposal.

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt testified before the House Appropriations on February 27th. His testimony is available online at: <http://www.hhs.gov/asl/testify/2007/02/t20070227a.html>

On March 23, the Senate passed the Specter-Harkin amendment as a part of the FY2008 budget resolution. The amendment provides a larger budget allocation for federal health programming as well as language requesting the restoration to FY 2005 funding of drastically cut health professions programs. The House is expected to take a similar measure in the coming weeks.

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