

**Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration**

c/o American Public Health Association

[www.friendsofhrsa.org](http://www.friendsofhrsa.org)

April 11, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

The undersigned members of the Friends of HRSA coalition recommend providing **\$8.56 billion for discretionary Health Resources and Services Administration programs in the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.**

The Friends of HRSA is a coalition dedicated to supporting programs that are essential for a healthy nation. HRSA administers programs that focus on improving care for tens of millions of Americans, who are medically underserved or face barriers to needed care, by strengthening the health workforce and increasing access to quality health services.

Investing in programs that keep people healthy is important for the vitality of our nation. HRSA programs have been successful in improving the health of people at highest risk for poor health outcomes. The agency supports efforts that increase access to quality care, better leverage existing investments and achieve improved health outcomes at a lower cost. For example:

- HRSA-funded community health centers serve as the primary medical home to nearly 27 million people, providing comprehensive, cost-effective care by reducing barriers such as cost, lack of insurance, distance, and language for their patients.
- HRSA supports the health workforce across the entire training continuum by strengthening the health workforce and connecting skilled professionals to communities in need.
- HRSA's Maternal and Child Health programs support patient-centered, evidence-based programs that optimize health, minimize disparities and improve health care access for medically and economically vulnerable women, infants and children.
- HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides medical care, treatment and coverage completions services to over half a million people living with HIV. Ryan White programs effectively engage clients in comprehensive care and treatment, including increasing access to HIV medication, which has resulted in 85% of clients achieving viral suppression, compared to just 49% of all people living with HIV nationwide.
- HRSA supports healthcare systems programs that increase access and availability of lifesaving marrow, cord blood and donor organs for transplantation. Additionally, the Healthcare Systems Bureau supports poison control centers, which contribute to

significantly decreasing a patient's length of stay in a hospital and save the federal government \$662.8 million each year in medical costs and lost productivity.

- HRSA also supports community- and state-based solutions to improve rural community health by focusing on quality improvement, increasing health care access, coordination of care and integration of services that are uniquely designed to meet the needs of rural communities.
- HRSA's Title X Family Planning reduces unintended pregnancy rates, limits transmission of sexually transmitted infections and increases early detection of breast and cervical cancer by ensuring access to family planning and related preventive health services to more than 4 million women, men and adolescents.

The nation faces a shortage of health professionals, and a growing and aging population which will demand more health care. HRSA is well positioned to address these issues and to continue building on the agency's many successes, but a stronger commitment of resources is necessary to effectively do so. We urge you to consider HRSA's central role in strengthening the nation's health and support a funding level of \$8.56 billion for HRSA's discretionary budget authority in FY 2019.

For any questions regarding our request, please contact Gaby Witte at [gabriella.witte@apha.org](mailto:gabriella.witte@apha.org) or 202-777-2513.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days

American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association, Inc.  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
Association of Departments of Family Medicine  
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Pathology Chairs  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Autism Society  
CAEAR Coalition  
Children's Hospital Association  
Coalition for Health Funding

Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Family Voices  
Futures Without Violence  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality  
HIV Medicine Association  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
March of Dimes  
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals  
NAPHSIS  
National AHEC Organization  
National Association for Geriatric Education  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Board for Certified Counselors  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Council for Diversity In the Health Professions  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ)  
National League for Nursing  
National League for Nursing  
National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match  
National Rural Recruitment & Retention Network (3RNet)  
National Women's Health Network  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
The AIDS Institute

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee  
House Appropriations Committee