

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration
c/o American Public Health Association
www.friendsofhrsa.org

March 24, 2015

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
on 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 recommend providing \$7.48 billion for discretionary Health Resources and Services Administration programs in the FY 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The Friends of HRSA is a coalition of [170 national organizations](#) dedicated to improving health through supporting a well-prepared workforce and the delivery of quality health services. The programs administered by HRSA strategically focus on improving care for underserved and at-risk groups in every state and U.S. territory.

The U.S. has the potential to have one of the healthiest populations in the world but too many families still face barriers to basic, quality health care. Our nation's ability to deliver essential public health services and a capable public health workforce are essential for a healthy and thriving population that can translate into a productive workforce and reduced health care costs.

As health coverage increases and the nation experiences a growing, aging and more diverse population, alongside health professionals nearing retirement age, it is ever more critical to make investments that improve access and support a high-performing workforce capable of meeting the changes and expected increases in health care demands. Not only are there current and projected shortages in the health professional workforce, many communities, both urban and rural, experience persistent shortages and lack access to care due to a geographic maldistribution of providers.

HRSA programs are responsive to the nation's evolving health needs and the agency is continuously exploring and supporting efforts to yield higher quality, improve efficiency and better leverage existing investments. The agency carries out critical public health programs that reach millions of Americans, including: providing primary care services to more than 21 million people; providing training and support for health professionals; supporting maternal and child health programs that serve over 42 million vulnerable women and children; serving about half of the 1.2 million people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing new HIV infections; and ensuring access to family planning services to more than 4.5 million low-income women, men and adolescents.

We urge you to consider HRSA's central role in strengthening the nation's health and provide \$7.48 billion for HRSA's discretionary budget authority in FY 2016. For any questions regarding our request, please feel free to contact Nicole Burda at nicole.burda@apha.org or 202-777-2513.

Sincerely,

3RNet (National Rural Recruitment & Retention Network)
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Project Los Angeles
AIDS Task Force
AIDS United
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 Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American Association of Kidney Patients
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Optometric Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Blood & Marrow Transplantation
APLA Health & Wellness
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
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 Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS, Inc.
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Family Voices
Farmworker Justice
Florida A&M University College of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
HealthHIV
HIV Medicine Association
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Meharry Medical College
Morehouse School of Medicine
Movement is Life
National AHEC Organization

National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
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, Inc.
National Center for Farmworker Health
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Disability Rights Network
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Kidney Foundation
National League for Nursing
National Nursing Centers Consortium
North American Primary Care Research Group
Oncology Nursing Society
Prevent Blindness
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
School-Based Health Alliance
Society for Public Health Education
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
The AIDS Institute
Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO, Inc.)
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee
House Appropriations Committee