

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

c/o American Public Health Association [www.friendsofhrsa.org](http://www.friendsofhrsa.org)

November 16, 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:

As you work to finalize the FY 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies spending legislation, the undersigned members of the Friends of HRSA respectfully urge you to provide the highest possible level of funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration. Friends of HRSA is a nonpartisan coalition of organizations dedicated to improving health through supporting a well-prepared workforce and the delivery of quality health services. We would like to reiterate the coalition's recommendation, from earlier this year, to provide \$7.48 billion for HRSA's discretionary budget authority in FY 2016. Additionally, we ask you to reject the inclusion of any ideological policy riders that would undermine HRSA's efforts to improve the health of individuals and communities.

We are pleased that Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, and urge you to use the additional resources provided by sequestration relief to invest in the broad range of programs supported by HRSA. Under the original Labor-HHS-Education allocation, each chamber advanced spending bills with a variety of cuts to HRSA programs, ranging from small to large reductions. The Senate bill proposed cuts from 2 percent to 8 percent for multiple nursing workforce development programs, elimination of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part F: Special Projects of National Significance, and elimination of the Health Careers Opportunity Program. The House bill proposed full elimination of the Title X Family Planning Program. Both spending proposals cut the Public Health and Preventive Medicine program by over 50 percent. These examples reflect only a few of the many proposed cuts, which come on top of reductions to the agency's total discretionary budget over the past five years. With the additional resources provided by the budget deal, you have a real opportunity to reinvest in the health of the American people and restore the proposed funding cuts to HRSA programs contained in the House and Senate FY 2016 Labor-HHS-Education spending bills.

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 society and reduced health care costs. As health coverage increases and the nation continues to

experience a growing, aging and more diverse population, alongside health professionals nearing retirement age, it is more critical to make meaningful investments that improve access and support a high-performing workforce capable of meeting the expected increases and changes in health care demands. On top of 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. The programs administered by HRSA strategically focus on improving care for underserved and at-risk groups in every state and U.S. territory.

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.

Sincerely,

3RNet (National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network)  
ADAP Advocacy Association  
AIDS Alabama  
AIDS Alabama South  
AIDS Project Los Angeles and APLA Health & Wellness  
AIDS United  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
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 Association of Marriage and Family Therapy  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Public Health Association

American Telemedicine Association  
Arizona Public Health Association  
Arkansas Public Health Association  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
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 Reproductive Health Professionals  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
BlackDoctor.org  
Boston Public Health Commission  
California Public Health Association-North  
Center for Women Policy Studies  
Claire Heureuse Community Center, Inc.  
Claire Heureuse Group Day Care  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.  
Community Access National Network  
Community Health Partners for Sustainability  
Community Service Center of Greater Williamsburg  
Concilio Latino de Salud, Inc.  
Connecticut Public Health Association  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Delaware Academy of Medicine  
Delaware Public Health Association  
Dignity Health  
Disability Policy Consortium  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Florida A&M University College of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Futures Without Violence  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality  
Grady Health System  
Hawai'i Public Health Association  
Healthy Kinder  
Healthy Teen Network  
Hemophilia Association of New York, Inc.  
Hepatitis Foundation International  
HIV Dental Alliance  
HIV Medicine Association  
Idaho Public Health Association  
Indiana Public Health Association

International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium  
Iowa Public Health Association  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
Kansas Public Health Association  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Linn County Public Health Association  
Louisiana Housing Alliance  
Louisiana Public Health Association  
Maine Public Health Association  
March of Dimes  
Maryland Public Health Association  
Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform  
Meharry Medical College  
Mesa Public Health Associates  
Metro Wellness & Community Centers  
Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association  
Midwest Asian Health Association  
Minnesota Public Health Association  
Missouri Public Health Association  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
Movement is Life  
National AHEC Organization  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Hispanic Nurses  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians  
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 Network for Oral Health Access  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
Nevada Public Health Association  
New Jersey Public Health Association  
New Mexico Public Health Association  
New York Blood Center  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
North Carolina Public Health Association  
North Dakota Public Health Association  
Ohio Public Health Association  
Oklahoma Public Health Association  
Oral Health America

Oxford Group Family Day Care  
Prevention Institute  
Prologue Inc.  
Public Health Association of Nebraska  
Quad Council Coalition of Public Health Nursing Organizations  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
School-Based Health Alliance  
Senior Community Outreach Services, Inc.  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
Southwest Women's Law Center  
Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc.  
Tennessee Public Health Association  
The AIDS Institute  
The Arc of the United States  
Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO)  
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health  
Vermont Public Health Association  
Virginia Public Health Association  
Washington State Public Health Association  
Wyoming Public Health Association

Cc: The Honorable Paul Ryan  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
The Honorable Harry Reid  
House Appropriations Committee  
Senate Appropriations Committee