

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration

c/o American Public Health Association 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