

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

c/o American Public Health Association
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May 29, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6024

The Honorable James T. Walsh
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
1016 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6024

Dear Chairman Obey and Representative Walsh:

The undersigned members of the Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) urge you to provide an overall funding level of at least \$7.9 billion for HRSA in fiscal year (FY) 2009. For several years, HRSA has suffered from relatively level funding, undermining the ability of its successful programs to grow. Our request reflects the minimum amount HRSA will need to maintain its core programs for FY 2009. However, much more is needed for the agency to reach its ultimate goal of achieving 100 percent access to health care and eliminating health disparities.

The Friends of HRSA is a non-profit and non-partisan alliance of more than 120 national organizations, collectively representing millions of public health and health care professionals, academicians and consumers. Our member-organizations strongly support the programs at HRSA designed to ensure Americans' access to health services, and the elimination of health disparities.

Through its programs in each state and thousands of communities across the country, HRSA provides a health safety net for medically underserved individuals and families, including 47 million Americans who lack health insurance, 50 million Americans who live in neighborhoods where primary health care services are scarce, more than one million people living with HIV/AIDS, and 33 million vulnerable mothers and children, including children with special health care needs. HRSA funding goes where the need exists, in communities all over America and especially among populations experiencing racial/ethnic and rural/urban disparities in health status. We applaud HRSA's new strategy to increase flexibility of service delivery at the state and local levels and tailor programs to the unique needs of America's many varied communities. We are strong partners in supporting HRSA's historic commitment to enhancing the health resources, workforce and infrastructure that lay the foundation for health care delivery across the country.

A significantly greater investment is necessary to adequately fund HRSA's many programs and new initiatives. In the 21st century, rapid advances in research and technology promise unparalleled advances in the nation's health care delivery system. HRSA must be well positioned to meet these new challenges in providing the nation's most vulnerable citizens needed health care services and the opportunity to live healthier, more productive lives.

We are grateful for your support in the past and urge you to support a funding level of \$7.9 billion for HRSA in FY 2009.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
AIDS Action
The AIDS Institute
AIDS Project of Los Angeles
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
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 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
Americans for Democratic Action
American Optometric Association
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Public Health Association
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of Academic Health Centers
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 and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, and Neonatal Nurses
Charles Drew University
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Coalition for Health Funding
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Institute for Children's Environmental Health
Institute of Social Medicine and Community Health
March of Dimes Foundation
Meharry Medical College
Morehouse School of Medicine
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals

National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Area Health Education Center Organization
National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Marrow Donor Program
National Rural Health Association
North American Primary Care Research Group
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States
Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine