

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

c/o American Public Health Association
800 I Street NW
Washington DC, 20016
202-777-2513

December 19, 2008

President-Elect Barack Obama
Executive Office of the President-Elect
451 6th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear President-elect Obama:

The undersigned members of the Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) coalition thank you for your past support of HRSA and its programs and urge you to make funding for the agency a priority in 2009. HRSA provides a health safety net for uninsured, medically underserved and special needs populations across the country and supports the health workforce and infrastructure critical for the care of all Americans. Unfortunately, HRSA has suffered from relatively level funding since 2001, undermining the ability of its successful programs to grow. Much more is needed for the agency to reach its goals of improving access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality health services; eliminating health disparities; and improving the public health and health care systems. We urge you to make strengthening HRSA's budget a priority in the coming year.

The Friends of HRSA coalition 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 access to health services for each person in the U.S. and the elimination of health disparities. 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 in the United States.

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 46 million Americans who lack health insurance, 56 million Americans who live in communities 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.

A significantly greater investment is necessary to adequately fund HRSA's many programs and new initiatives. In the 21st century, rapid advances in research, technology and patient care 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 your continued support for this critical public health agency.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
AIDS Action Council
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
The AIDS Institute
AIDS Project 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 for Dental Research
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
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 Nurse Anesthetists
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Heart Association
American Nurses Association
American Optometric Association
American Pediatric Society
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Public Health Association
American Red Cross
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 and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools 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
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Coalition for Health Services Research
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Council of Accredited MPH Programs
Emergency Nurses Association
Epilepsy Foundation
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 AHEC Organization
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems
National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Association of Social Workers
National Council on Diversity in the Health Professions
National Disability Rights Network
National Health Care for the Homeless Council

National League for Nursing
National Marrow Donor Program
National Rural Health Association
North American Primary Care Research Group
The Sexuality Information and Education
Council of the US

Society for Adolescent Medicine
Society for General Internal Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Trust for America's Health

Cc: The Honorable Tom Daschle
Jeanne Lambrew, PhD