

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

c/o American Public Health Association

[www.friendsofhrsa.org](http://www.friendsofhrsa.org)

March 1, 2016

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  
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 2017 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The Friends of HRSA is a coalition of [170 national organizations](#) committed to supporting programs that are essential for a healthy nation. HRSA administers programs that focus on improving care for millions of Americans, who are medically underserved or face barriers to needed care, by strengthening the health workforce and increasing access to quality health services.

Our nation's ability to deliver health services that meet the pressing health challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is essential for a healthy and thriving population. To meet our nation's persistent and changing health needs, and to keep pace with our growing, aging and diversifying population, and evolving health care system, we must make deliberate investments in robust systems of care, innovative programs and a high-performing workforce ready to respond to the current and expected demands.

HRSA administers critical public health programs that reach millions of Americans by: providing primary care services to more than 22.9 million people; supporting the health workforce across the entire training continuum and addressing workforce distribution challenges to ensure access to care in underserved areas; supporting programs that promote optimal health, reduce infant mortality, minimize disparities, and prevent chronic conditions for vulnerable women, infants and children; providing medical care, treatment and support services for 512,000 people living with HIV/AIDS; increasing the availability of life-saving cord blood and donor organs for transplantation; enhancing health care delivery in rural communities; and ensuring access to family planning services to more than 4.1 million low-income women, men and adolescents.

HRSA programs have been successful in improving the health of people at highest risk for poor health outcomes, and the agency is continuously exploring and supporting efforts that drive quality care, better leverage existing investments and achieve improved health outcomes at a lower cost. For 50 years, health centers have delivered comprehensive, cost-effective care and demonstrated their ability to reduce the use of costlier providers of care. Health centers also

boast a lower incidence of low birth weight compared to the national rate. Collectively, HRSA programs have contributed to decreasing the infant mortality rate to a historic low of 5.8 deaths per 1,000 live births. People receiving care through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program achieve higher viral suppression compared to the national average, and viral suppression is central to preventing new HIV infections. In 2014, Title X family planning helped prevent over 941,000 unintended pregnancies and an estimated 1,176 cases of sexually transmitted disease-related infertility. Poison control centers contributed to significantly decreasing a patient's length of stay in a hospital and saving the federal government \$662.8 billion each year in medical costs and lost productivity. In addition to increasing access to care for the millions of Americans living in rural areas, a recent analysis showed that for every HRSA dollar invested in rural health workforce development, about \$1.63 in additional revenue, or a total of \$19.4 million, was generated in new local economic activity over a three-year period.

A commitment of resources is necessary to continue building on HRSA's many successes and to make meaningful progress on pressing issues threatening the vitality of our nation, such as the opioid crisis. We urge you to consider HRSA's central role in strengthening the nation's health and support a funding level of \$7.48 billion for HRSA's discretionary budget authority in FY 2017. For any questions regarding our request, please feel free to contact Nicole Burda, Deputy Director of Government Relations for the American Public Health Association, at [nicole.burda@apha.org](mailto:nicole.burda@apha.org) or 202-777-2513.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
AcademyHealth  
AIDS Project Los Angeles  
AIDS United  
Alaska Public Health Association  
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 Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Optometric Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
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 Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
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 (AWHONN)  
Center for Women Policy Studies  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Corporation for Supportive Housing  
Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association  
Family Voices  
Futures Without Violence  
Harrison County Home and Public Health  
Hawaii Public Health Association  
HealthHIV  
Healthy Kinder, Inc.  
HIV Medicine Association  
Idaho Public Health Association  
Iowa CareGivers  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
Maine Public Health Association  
March of Dimes  
Massachusetts Public Health Association  
Minnesota Public Health Association  
Mississippi Public Health Association  
Missouri Public Health Association  
Monona County Public Health  
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals  
NASTAD (National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors)  
National AHEC Organization  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Board for Certified Counselors  
National Center for Farmworker Health  
National Dental Education Association  
National Environmental Health Association  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Kidney Foundation  
National League for Nursing  
National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health  
National Rural Recruitment and Retention Network (3RNet)

Nevada Public Health Association  
New Jersey Public Health Association  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
North Carolina Public Health Association  
North Dakota Public Health Association  
Ohio Public Health Association  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Oregon Public Health Association  
Pennsylvania Public Health Association  
Pozitively Healthy  
Prevent Blindness  
Public Health Association of Nebraska  
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  
South Carolina Public Health Association  
Texas Public Health Association  
The AIDS Institute  
Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO)  
Utah Public Health Association  
Vermont Public Health Association  
Virginia Public Health Association

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee  
House Appropriations Committee