

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration

c/o American Public Health Association

www.friendsofhrsa.org

March 30, 2017

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 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.**

The Friends of HRSA is a coalition dedicated 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.

Investing in programs that keep people healthy is important for the vitality of our nation. HRSA programs have been successful in improving the health of people at highest risk for poor health outcomes. The agency supports efforts that drive quality care, better leverage existing investments and achieve improved health outcomes at a lower cost. For example:

- HRSA-funded health centers deliver comprehensive, cost-effective care to more than 24.2 million people and have demonstrated their ability to reduce the use of costlier providers of care.
- HRSA supports the health workforce across the entire training continuum and addresses workforce distribution challenges to ensure access to care in underserved areas.
- HRSA's Maternal and Child Health programs promote optimal health, minimize disparities and prevent chronic conditions for vulnerable women, infants and children. The maternal and child health programs have helped to achieve a decrease in infant mortality rate, a widely used indicator of the nation's health, reaching a historic low of 5.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2014.
- HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides medical care, treatment and support services for more than 533,000 people impacted by HIV/AIDS, improving health outcomes for people with HIV and reducing the chance of others becoming infected. These national prevention efforts have contributed to annual HIV infections declining 18 percent from 2008 to 2014.
- HRSA supports healthcare systems programs that increase the access and availability of life-saving marrow, cord blood and donor organs for transplantation. Additionally,

the Healthcare Systems Bureau supports poison control centers, which contribute to significantly decreasing a patient's length of stay in a hospital and save the federal government \$662.8 billion each year in medical costs and lost productivity.

- HRSA also supports community- and state-based solutions to improve efficiencies in delivering rural health services and expand access to care in rural communities.
- HRSA's family planning program reduces unintended pregnancy rates, limits transmission of sexually transmitted infections and increases early detection of breast and cervical cancer by ensuring access to family planning and related preventive health services to more than 4 million women, men and adolescents.

In addition to discretionary funding, HRSA receives mandatory funding for multiple programs. At the end of FY 2017, mandatory funding is slated to expire for Community Health Centers, National Health Service Corps, Teaching Health Centers Program, Family-to-Family Health Information Centers and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program. Together, mandatory resources for these programs account for 41 percent of HRSA's total program level. We urge the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations committees to work with your authorizing colleagues to ensure continued funding for these programs. In the absence of continued mandatory funding for these programs, it will be exceedingly difficult to address these shortfalls in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

The nation faces a shortage of health professionals, and a growing and aging population which will demand more health care. HRSA is well positioned to address these issues and to continue building on the agency's many successes, but a stronger commitment of resources is necessary to effectively do so. Our funding request would restore HRSA's discretionary budget to the FY 2010 level. 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 2018.

For any questions regarding our request, please contact Nicole Burda at nicole.burda@apha.org or 202-777-2513.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AcademyHealth
Advocates for Youth
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS United
Allergy & Asthma Network
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Academy of PAs
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 Nurse Practitioners

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Hospital Association
American Medical Student Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Optometric Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Osteopathic Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Blood & Marrow Transplantation
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society of Transplantation
American Thoracic Society
ASIA International Community Health Center
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
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 Schools of Allied Health Professions
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
CAEAR Coalition
California Public Health Association-North
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Coalition for Health Funding
Commission on the Public's Health System
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Concilio Latino de Salud
Connecticut Public Health Association
Consumer Health First
Cooley's Anemia Foundation
Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association

Disability Policy Consortium of Massachusetts
Equality California
Futures Without Violence
Georgia Public Health Association
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
Hepatitis Foundation International
HIV Medicine Association
IC & RC
Idaho Public Health Association
Iowa Public Health Association
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Kansas Public Health Association
Kentucky Public Health Association
Khmer Health Advocates, Inc.
Latino Commission on AIDS, Inc.
Louisiana Public Health Association
Maine Public Health Association
March of Dimes
Maryland Public Health Association
Meharry Medical College
Michigan Public Health Association
Mississippi Public Health Association
Morehouse School of Medicine
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
NASTAD
National AHEC Organization
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition
National Black Justice Coalition
National Black Nurses Association
National Board for Certified Counselors
National Center for Farmworker Health
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians
National Council of Jewish Women
National Environmental Health Association
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Immigration Law Center
National League for Nursing
National Marrow Donor Program, Be The Match

National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium
National Organization for Women
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
National Women's Health Network
Nevada Public Health Association
New Hampshire Public Health Association
New Jersey Public Health Association
New Mexico Public Health Association
NICHQ (National Institute for Children's Health Quality)
NMAC
NOELA Community Health 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
Oncology Nursing Society
Oral Health America (OHA)
Oregon Public Health Association
Physician Assistant Education Association
Prevent Blindness
Public Health Association of New York City
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
School-Based Health Alliance
Senior Community Outreach Services, Inc.
Society for Public Health Education
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
South Dakota Public Health Association
Southern California Public Health Association
Tennessee Public Health Association
Texas Public Health Association
The AIDS Institute
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine
University of New Mexico
Vermont Public Health Association
Virginia Public Health Association
Welcome Back Initiative
Whitman-Walker Health

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee
House Appropriations Committee