

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

c/o American Public Health Association

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