

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

c/o American Public Health Association

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

February 26, 2020

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chair  
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  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Chairman Blunt and Ranking Members Cole and Murray:

The undersigned 109 members of the Friends of HRSA coalition and other supporting organizations recommend providing **\$8.8 billion for discretionary Health Resources and Services Administration programs in the FY 2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill**. We are grateful for the increases provided for HRSA programs in FY 2020, but HRSA's discretionary budget authority is far too low to effectively address the nation's current health care needs. Additional funding will allow HRSA to fill preventive and primary health care gaps and to build upon the achievements of HRSA's more than 90 programs and more than 3,000 grantees. We strongly urge you to reject the \$742 million in cuts proposed to HRSA's discretionary budget in the president's FY 2021 budget proposal for the agency.

Friends of HRSA is a nonpartisan coalition of national organizations representing public health and health care professionals, academicians, and consumers invested in HRSA's mission to improve health and achieve health equity. The coalition advocates for strengthening funding levels for HRSA's discretionary budget authority to enable the agency to keep pace with the persistent and changing health demands of the nation's growing, aging and diversifying population and constantly evolving health care system.

HRSA is a national leader in improving the health of Americans by addressing the supply, distribution and diversity of health professionals, supporting training in contemporary practices and providing quality health services to the nation's most vulnerable populations. This includes people living with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, mothers and their families, and those otherwise unable to access high quality health care. HRSA also oversees organ, bone marrow and cord blood donation, compensates individuals harmed by vaccination and maintains databases that protect against health care malpractice, waste, fraud and abuse.

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 increase access to quality care, better leverage existing investments and achieve improved health outcomes at a lower cost. For example:

- HRSA supports over 11,000 community health centers which serve as the primary medical home to more than 28 million people, providing comprehensive, cost-effective care by reducing barriers such as cost, lack of insurance, distance, and language for their patients.
- HRSA supports the health workforce across the entire training continuum by strengthening the health workforce and connecting skilled professionals to communities in need.
- HRSA's Maternal and Child Health programs support patient-centered, evidence-based programs that optimize health, minimize disparities and improve health care access for medically and economically vulnerable women, infants and children.
- HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides medical care and treatment services to over half a million people living with HIV. Ryan White programs effectively engage clients in comprehensive care and treatment, including increasing access to HIV medication, which has resulted in 87% of clients achieving viral suppression, compared to just 59% of all people living with HIV nationwide.
- HRSA supports healthcare systems programs that increase access and availability of lifesaving bone 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 million each year in medical costs and lost productivity.
- HRSA supports community- and state-based solutions to improve rural community health by focusing on quality improvement, increasing health care access, coordination of care and integration of services that are uniquely designed to meet the needs of rural communities.
- The Title X 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 close to 4 million women, men and adolescents.
- HRSA also supports training, technical assistance and resource development to assist public health and health care professionals better serve individuals and communities impacted by intimate partner violence.

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. We urge you to consider HRSA's central role in strengthening the nation's health and support a funding level of \$8.8 billion for HRSA's discretionary budget authority in FY 2021.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days

Allergy & Asthma Network

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American Association for Dental Research

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine  
American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Education Association  
American Liver Foundation  
American Medical Student Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Organization for Nursing Leadership  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Transplantation  
Association for Clinical and Translational Science  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
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 Pathology Chairs  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
CAEAR Coalition  
Clinical Research Forum  
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science  
Coalition of National Health Education Organizations  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)  
Connecticut Public Health Association  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Dystonia Advocacy Network  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Eta Sigma Gamma  
Family Voices  
Futures Without Violence  
GBS|CIDP Foundation International  
Georgia Society for Public Health Education (GASOPHE)  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality

HealthHIV  
Healthy Teen Network  
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute  
HIV Medicine Association  
Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness  
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
Lymphatic Education Research Network  
Maine Public Health Association  
March of Dimes  
Massachusetts Public Health Association  
METAvivor  
NASTAD  
National AHEC Organization  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ)  
National Kidney Foundation  
National League for Nursing  
National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health  
National Pancreas Foundation  
NephCure Kidney International  
New York State Association of County Health Officials  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Patient Services, Inc.  
Prevent Blindness  
Prevent Blindness Georgia  
Prevent Blindness North Carolina  
Prevent Blindness Wisconsin  
Prevent Blindness Ohio  
Project Sleep  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation  
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Sleep Research Society  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
The AIDS Institute

The Gerontological Society of America  
The Marfan Foundation  
US Hereditary Angioedema Association  
Vermont Public Health Institute

Cc: House Appropriations Committee  
Senate Appropriations Committee