



April 27, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader McConnell, House Minority Leader McCarthy, and Senate Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC), I write to thank you for Congress's continued efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Investing in our health workforce is paramount in addressing public health crises by testing new models of care and training future providers. The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce programs play an essential role in training and preparing members of our health workforce who are at the forefront of fighting this pandemic.

HPNEC continues to recommend \$790 million for these programs in FY 2021, and **we urge Congress to provide at least \$367 million in no-year supplemental emergency funding without expiration for Title VII and Title VIII that supports our current and future health workforce as you develop COVID-19 relief legislation.**

HPNEC is an alliance of 80 national organizations representing schools, students, health professionals, and communities dedicated to ensuring that the health care workforce is educated and trained to meet the needs of all patients.

The HRSA Titles VII and VIII programs are structured to respond to changing delivery systems and models of care, such as telehealth, while expediently addressing immediate health threats in all communities. With COVID-19 disproportionately impacting racial and ethnic minorities, these programs are aimed to mitigate health disparities across race and ethnicities, and recruit and train culturally competent health workforce. The supplemental emergency funds would support:

- **Public Health Workforce Development** programs, which train America’s public health workforce to identify underlying causes of health issues, new disease strains, health disparities, and other public health issues vital to the country’s response to any pandemic.
- **Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development** programs, which is the primary source of federal funding for our country’s nursing workforce and ensure that our nurses have the resources they need and that our future nursing workforce pipeline remains strong.
- **Primary Care Medicine and Oral Health Training** programs which improves the access and quality of health care in underserved areas by training general internists, family medicine practitioners, general pediatricians, oral health providers, and physician assistants.
- **Area Health Education Centers, Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Programs, and Geriatrics Academic Career Awards** which supports interdisciplinary, community- based training programs for healthcare professionals, providing support for health care delivery in rural and urban underserved areas
- **Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program, Mental and Substance Use Disorders Workforce Training Demonstration Program, and the Graduate Psychology Education Program**, as the nation’s demand for mental health and substance use support is expected to increase dramatically.
- **Health Professions Training for Diversity Area Health Education Centers, Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Programs, and Geriatrics Academic Career Awards**, which supports interdisciplinary, community- based training programs for healthcare professionals, provides support for health care delivery in rural and urban underserved areas.
- **Minority Faculty Loan Repayment, Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment, and Nurse Faculty Loan Repayment programs**, which helps ensure that existing disparities of providers, particularly in underserved areas, are not exacerbated by disruptions in hiring caused by the current financial crisis in the health care system.
- **Health Professions Workforce Information and Analysis**, which advises future decision-making on America’s health workforce during times of crisis.

As organizations representing health care workers on the frontlines of the battle against COVID-19, we understand the current challenges facing our workforce, and the need to invest in new models of health care delivery to meet the needs of all patients. Since the Title VII and Title VIII programs are structured to address health threats in all communities, this additional funding will ensure that our nation has a robust health workforce positioned to fight COVID-19 and future public health crises.

Again, HPNEC appreciates your efforts to combat COVID-19, and we look forward to partnering with you in this response. If you have any questions, please contact Brett Roude from my staff at broude@aamc.org or 202-753-5726.

Sincerely,
 Matthew Shick
 Executive Director

Cc: United States House of Representatives
 Cc: United States Senate