

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration

c/o American Public Health Association

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 21st 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 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