

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

c/o American Public Health Association

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

October 18, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Blunt and Ranking Members Mikulski and Murray:

The undersigned members of the Friends of HRSA and other supporting organizations urge you to support our original FY 2017 request of \$7.48 billion for discretionary Health Resources and Services Administration programs in the final FY 2017 spending agreement. We also urge you to restore the funding cuts to the HRSA programs that were included in the bills passed by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees earlier in the year. Additionally, we ask you to reject the inclusion of any controversial policy riders that would threaten public health.

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 increasingly diverse 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 programs have been successful in improving the health of people at highest risk for poor health outcomes, and the agency continues to explore and support efforts that drive quality care, better leverage existing investments and achieve improved health outcomes at a lower cost.

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.

As you work to complete spending legislation for FY 2017, 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. A strong commitment of resources is necessary to continue building on HRSA's many successes and to make meaningful progress on pressing issues that threaten the vitality of our nation.

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](mailto:nicole.burda@apha.org) or 202-777-2513.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Dental Research  
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 Nurse-Midwives  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Education Association  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
American Medical Student Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation  
APLA Health  
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 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  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Children's Hospital Association  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)  
Family Voices  
HealthHIV  
Healthy Kinder  
HIV Medicine Association  
March of Dimes  
Meharry Medical College  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
NACCHO  
National AHEC Organization  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Board for Certified Counselors  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Environmental Health Association  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Healthy Start Association  
National Kidney Foundation  
National League for Nursing  
National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match  
National Network of Public Health Institutes  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
National Nurse-led Care Consortium  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Prevent Blindness  
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  
The AIDS Institute  
The American Academy of HIV Medicine  
Transplant Recipients International Organization (TRIO)  
Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health

Cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Appropriations Committee