

May 11, 2011

EXPAND ACCESS TO TRAINING FOR VITAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

SUPPORT TITLE VII

Deadline: Noon, Wednesday, 5/18/2011

Dear Colleague:

Please join me in signing the attached letter urging appropriators to prioritize education and training programs for our nation's health professionals in the upcoming FY2012 Labor-HHS appropriations bill with a strong commitment to the Title VII health professions programs.

The Title VII programs provide grants to educational institutions and other venues that educate and train primary health care professionals with a focus on improving the supply, and diversity of the health care workforce and assuring that all communities in the United States have access to properly trained health care professionals. These programs include primary care medicine and dentistry, community-based training programs for practitioners in rural and urban underserved areas, workforce information analysis, and development of public health training programs. Approximately 60% of community health center physicians have been involved with Title VII programs during their training. Also, according to a 2010 survey, 80% of nurse practitioners who attended a Title VII funded program chose to practice in a medically underserved area.

Title VII programs received \$222 million in FY2009 and \$254 million in FY2010. The President's budget request seeks \$449.5 million for Title VII programs. These are challenging fiscal times, but educating our workforce in critical needs areas is a smart investment. At a time when this country faces potential shortages of primary care physicians in many areas, Title VII programs can help put people to work and increase their skills to address our emerging and evolving health care needs. We urge you to sign the attached letter and help to ensure the Title VII health professions programs receive strong support in FY2012. To sign, please contact Marc Rigas with Rep. DeGette at marc.rigas@mail.house.gov or 5-4431.

Sincerely,

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Representative Denny Rehberg
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,
Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, we urge you to make the nation's health care workforce a priority and support the Title VII health professions programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). As you know, the Title VII programs provide direct financial support for health care workforce development and education. In addition, they are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce. The President's budget requests \$449.5 million for FY2012. This increase over FY2010 funding levels is justified, as the programs have been chronically underfunded.

Since 1963, the Title VII programs have played an essential role in both preparing health professions students for careers in the health professions and bringing health care workers to communities where quality health care is difficult to find. The Title VII programs help to close the gaps in the country's health care workforce, filling vacancies in high-demand health professions disciplines and helping the workforce respond to communities' changing needs. At a time when the nation is facing unprecedented provider shortages, as well as a rapidly growing and aging population, a strong commitment to the Title VII programs is necessary. Anything less may have a devastating impact on the neediest Americans.

In this challenging environment, we recognize that you must make difficult decisions as you seek to improve the fiscal health of the nation. However, we respectfully urge you to ensure that a strong health care workforce is in place by supporting the Title VII programs in the FY 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. Support for these programs will ensure that the health professions workforce is able to meet the country's evolving and emerging health care needs.

Sincerely,

Title VII Dear Colleague FY 2012

<u>Member</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Party</u>
Baldwin	Wisc.	D
Berman	Calif.	D
Bishop	N.Y.	D
Blumenauer	Ore.	D
Capps	Calif.	D
Carson	Ind.	D
Chu	Calif.	D
Cicilline	R.I.	D
Clarke	N.Y.	D
Conyers	Mich.	D
Cummings	Md.	D
DeGette	Colo.	D
Dingell	Mich.	D
Frank	Mass.	D
Green, Gene	Tex.	D
Grijalva	Aiz.	D
Hinchey	N.Y.	D
Kind	Wisc.	D
Kucinich	Ohio	D
Langevin	R.I.	D
Larsen	Wash.	D
Lee	Calif.	D
Lewis	Ga.	D
Loeb sack	Iowa	D
Lynch	Mass.	D
Maloney	N.Y.	D
Matsui	Calif.	D
McGovern	Mass.	D
Nadler	N.Y.	D
Pingree	Maine	D
Rahall	W.V.	D
Reyes	Tex.	D
Ross	Ark.	D
Sarbanes	Md.	D
Schakowsky	Ill.	D
Scott	Va.	D
Sewell	Ala.	D
Tsongas	Mass.	D
Waxman	Calif.	D
Wu	Ore.	D
Yarmuth	Ky.	D

FY 2011 Signatories

<u>Member</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Party</u>
Altmire	Pa.	D
Carnahan	Mo.	D
Fattah	Pa.	D
Higgins	N.Y.	D
Kildee	Mich.	D
Lujan	N.M.	D
McDermott	Wash.	D
McIntyre	N.C.	D
Moore, Gwen	Wisc.	D
Polis	Colo.	D
Price, David	N.C.	D
Schrader	Ore.	D
Schwartz	Pa.	D
Towns	N.Y.	D
VanHollen	Md.	D
Velazquez	N.Y.	D