

# Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

c/o American Public Health Association  
800 I Street NW  
Washington DC, 20016  
202-777-2513

December 19, 2008

President-Elect Barack Obama  
Executive Office of the President-Elect  
451 6th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear President-elect Obama:

**The undersigned members of the Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) coalition thank you for your past support of HRSA and its programs and urge you to make funding for the agency a priority in 2009.** HRSA provides a health safety net for uninsured, medically underserved and special needs populations across the country and supports the health workforce and infrastructure critical for the care of all Americans. Unfortunately, HRSA has suffered from relatively level funding since 2001, undermining the ability of its successful programs to grow. Much more is needed for the agency to reach its goals of improving access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality health services; eliminating health disparities; and improving the public health and health care systems. We urge you to make strengthening HRSA's budget a priority in the coming year.

The Friends of HRSA coalition is a non-profit and non-partisan alliance of more than 120 national organizations, collectively representing millions of public health and health care professionals, academicians and consumers. Our member-organizations strongly support the programs at HRSA designed to ensure access to health services for each person in the U.S. and the elimination of health disparities. We are strong partners in supporting HRSA's historic commitment to enhancing the health resources, workforce and infrastructure that lay the foundation for health care delivery in the United States.

Through its programs in each state and thousands of communities across the country, HRSA provides a health safety net for medically underserved individuals and families, including 46 million Americans who lack health insurance, 56 million Americans who live in communities where primary health care services are scarce, more than one million people living with HIV/AIDS, and 33 million vulnerable mothers and children, including children with special health care needs. HRSA funding goes where the need exists, in communities all over America and especially among populations experiencing racial/ethnic and rural/urban disparities in health status.

A significantly greater investment is necessary to adequately fund HRSA's many programs and new initiatives. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, rapid advances in research, technology and patient care promise unparalleled advances in the nation's health care delivery system. HRSA must be well positioned to meet these new challenges in providing the nation's most vulnerable citizens needed health care services and the opportunity to live healthier, more productive lives. We are grateful for your support in the past and urge your continued support for this critical public health agency.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
AIDS Action Council  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
The AIDS Institute  
AIDS Project Los Angeles  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Assistants  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
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 Nurse Anesthetists  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Dental Education Association  
American Dental Hygienists' Association  
American Heart Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Red Cross  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
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 and Child Health Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Public Health Laboratories  
Association of Schools 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  
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science  
Coalition for American Trauma Care  
Coalition for Health Services Research  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Council of Accredited MPH Programs  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Institute for Children's Environmental Health  
Institute of Social Medicine and Community Health  
March of Dimes Foundation  
Meharry Medical College  
Morehouse School of Medicine  
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals  
National AHEC Organization  
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors  
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems  
National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Local Boards of Health  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Council on Diversity in the Health Professions  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council

National League for Nursing  
National Marrow Donor Program  
National Rural Health Association  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
The Sexuality Information and Education  
Council of the US

Society for Adolescent Medicine  
Society for General Internal Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
Trust for America's Health

Cc: The Honorable Tom Daschle  
Jeanne Lambrew, PhD