

Friends of the Health Resources and Services Administration

c/o American Public Health Association

www.friendsofhrsa.org

November 4, 2024

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
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
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Aderholt and Capito and Ranking Members DeLauro and Baldwin:

The undersigned 72 members of the Friends of HRSA coalition and other supporting state, national and academic organizations write to express our strong opposition to the \$886 million cut to the Health Resources and Services Administration proposed in the House FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill. **Our organizations urge you to reject the cuts in the House bill that would severely undermine critical public health programs. Instead, we ask that you follow the Senate's lead to work in a bipartisan manner to develop a final bill that contains robust funding for the agency's many critical programs, recognizes those programs that were supported with increases in either the House or Senate bills, and rejects controversial policy riders.** Strong funding for HRSA is critical to supporting all of HRSA's activities and programs, which are essential to protect the health of our communities. Due to years of underfunding, many HRSA programs have not received the funding that is needed to address the many health challenges we face as a nation, limiting their ability to provide communities with the support, care and workforce that they depend on. Additional funding will allow HRSA to fill preventive and primary health care gaps, support urgent and long-term public health workforce needs and build upon the achievements of HRSA's more than 90 programs and more than 3,000 grantees. In addition to advocating for a stronger public health system at all levels of government, our organizations will strongly oppose any efforts to cut funding or dismantle critical HRSA programs or attach damaging policy riders to the bill, all of which would threaten the health and wellbeing of communities in every state. We are also extremely concerned that several recent efforts by the administration will significantly weaken HRSA, the rest of the nation's public health system and our efforts to combat many of the leading causes of death and disability in the nation. This includes the reorganization of HRSA, SAMHSA, and other agencies into an Administration for a Healthy America, an agency that does not exist and is not established by Congress, and furthermore, an attack against the federal health workforce resulting in thousands of firings across HHS. These actions threaten the ability of HRSA and other agencies to maintain a strong health workforce and monitor and protect against health threats.

Friends of HRSA is a nonpartisan coalition of national organizations representing public health and health care professionals, academicians, and consumers invested in HRSA's mission to improve health. The coalition advocates for strengthening funding levels for HRSA's discretionary budget authority to enable the agency to keep pace with the persistent and changing health demands of the nation's growing, aging population and constantly evolving public health and health care system.

HRSA is a national leader in improving the health of Americans by addressing the supply, and distribution of health professionals, supporting training in contemporary public health practices and providing quality health services to the nation's most vulnerable populations. This includes people living with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women, mothers and their families and those otherwise unable to access high quality health care. HRSA also oversees organ, bone marrow and cord blood donation, supports behavioral health services including substance use disorder treatment, compensates individuals for vaccine-related injuries and maintains databases that protect against health care malpractice, waste, fraud and abuse.

Investing in programs that keep people healthy is important for the vitality of our nation. HRSA programs have been successful in improving the health of people at highest risk for poor health outcomes. The agency supports efforts that increase access to quality care, better leverage existing investments and achieve improved health outcomes at a lower cost. For example:

- HRSA supports more than 15,000 community health center sites which provide high quality primary care services to more than 31 million people and reduce barriers such as cost, lack of insurance, distance and language for their patients.
- HRSA supports the health workforce across the entire training continuum by strengthening the workforce and connecting skilled professionals to communities in need. Programs such as the Public Health Training Centers assess and respond to critical workforce needs through training, technical assistance and student support.
- HRSA's Maternal and Child Health programs support patient-centered, evidence-based programs that optimize health, minimize disparities and improve health promotion and health care access for medically and economically vulnerable women, infants and children.
- HRSA's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides medical care and treatment services to over half a million people living with HIV. Ryan White programs effectively engage clients in comprehensive care and treatment, including increasing access to HIV medication, which has resulted in 90.6% of clients nationwide.
- HRSA supports healthcare programs that increase access to lifesaving bone marrow, cord blood and donor organs for transplantation, including the new Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Modernization Initiative to improve transparency, performance, governance, and efficiency of the US transplant system. The Healthcare Systems Bureau supports poison control centers which contribute to decreasing patients' length of stay in a hospital and help reduce medical costs and lost productivity.
- HRSA supports community- and state-based solutions to improve rural community health by focusing on quality improvement, increasing health care access, coordination of care and integration of services that are uniquely designed to meet the needs of rural communities.
- The Title X Family Planning program, which served nearly 2.8 million people in 2023, increases access to contraception, limits transmission of sexually transmitted infections

and increases early detection of breast and cervical cancer by increasing access to family planning and related preventive health services for adults and adolescents in communities across the country. HRSA also supports training, technical assistance and resource development to assist public health and health care professionals to better serve individuals and communities impacted by intimate partner violence.

The nation faces a shortage of health professionals and a growing and aging population which will demand more health care. Emerging public health threats serve to reaffirm the critical nature of a robust workforce in responding to public health emergencies. HRSA is well positioned to address these issues and to continue building on the agency's many successes, but a stronger commitment of resources is necessary to effectively do so. **We urge you to consider HRSA's central role in strengthening the nation's health and adequately fund the agency and its programs in any final FY 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.**

Please contact Jordan Wolfe at jordan.wolfe@apha.org or 202-777-2513 with any questions regarding our request.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research
American College of Physicians
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association Services, Inc.
American Public Health Association
APLA Health
Arizona Public Health Association
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Boone County Health Department
Champaign-Urbana Public Health District
Connecticut Public Health Association
CT Society for Public Health Education
Delaware Academy of Medicine & Public Health
East Side Health District
Egyptian Public & Mental Health Department
Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department
Futures Without Violence
Georgia Public Health Association
Hawaii Public Health Association
Health Resources in Action
Healthy Teen Network
Henry and Stark County Health Dept.-Illinois

HIV Medicine Association
HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute
Illinois Public Health Association
Indiana Public Health Association
Kankakee County Health Department
Livingston County Health Department - Pontiac, Illinois
Louisiana Public Health Association (LPHA)
Maine Public Health Association
Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA)
Minnesota Public Health Association
Missouri Public Health Association
Montana Public Health Association
NASTAD
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Healthy Start Association
National Institute for Children's Health Quality
National Network of Public Health Institutes
NEPA AHEC/National Health Corps
Nevada Public Health Association
Nevada Public Health Institute
New Mexico Public Health Association
New York State Public Health Association
Ogle County Health Department
PA Education Association
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
South Carolina Public Health Association
South Dakota Public Health Association
Southern California Public Health Association
Tennessee Public Health Association
The AIDS Institute
Tulsa Health Department
Utah Public Health Association
Vermont Public Health Association
Virginia Public Health Association
Washington State Public Health Association
WE Public Health
Whiteside County Health Department and Community Health Center
Wisconsin Public Health Association
Wyoming Public Health Association