

Friends of HRSA

April 3, 2026

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 59 members of the Friends of HRSA coalition and other supporting state, national and academic organizations write to urge you to include **at least \$10.5 billion in discretionary funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration's programs in the FY 2027 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill**. We are grateful for your efforts to pass a final FY 2026 funding bill that supports HRSA programs and funding, rejects extreme cuts, and rejects the dismantling of key programs and centers at the agency. 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 programs, including 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 urge you to oppose attempts by the administration to eliminate programs and cut funding at HRSA, oppose the firing of federal staff whose work the agency's programs depend on, and to prioritize passing funding legislation in a timely manner to avoid lengthy continuing resolutions that bring uncertainty and make it more difficult for the agency and its grantees to protect the public's health. We are also extremely concerned about new "strategic priority areas" for HRSA that include restricting health care for transgender youth, restricting access to reproductive health care, cutting funding from harm reduction and substance abuse programs, making it more difficult for immigrants to access health programs, and scaling back the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program. We urge Congress to reject these misguided**

focus areas and instead focus on HRSA's mission to provide programs that strengthen the health workforce and increase access to care in ways that are informed by evidence and science.

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 16,000 community health center sites which provide high quality primary care services to more than 32 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 600,000 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 a 91.4% viral suppression rate for patients in the program.
- 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 at a discretionary funding level of at least \$10.5 billion in any final FY 2027 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,

American Public Health Association
Academic Pediatric Association
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American College of Physicians
American Pediatric Society
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
APLA Health
Arizona public health association
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Boone County Health Department
CAEAR Coalition
City University of New York Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy
Delaware Academy of Medicine & Public Health
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Florida Public Health Association
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Futures Without Violence

Georgia Public Health Association
Gerontological Society of America
Hawaii Public Health Association
Healthy Teen Network
HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute
Illinois Public Health Association
Indiana Public Health Association
Maine Public Health Association
Michigan Public Health Association
Minnesota Public Health Association
Missouri Public Health Association
Montana Public Health Association
NASTAD
National Association for Geriatric Education
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Network of Public Health Institutes
Nevada Public Health Association
Nevada Public Health Institute
New Jersey Public Health Association (NJPHA)
New Mexico Public Health Association
North Dakota Public Health Association
PA Education Association
Pediatric Policy Council
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Prevent Blindness
Public Health Association of Nebraska
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
South Dakota Public Health Association
The AIDS Institute
Utah Public Health Association
Vermont Public Health Association
Washington State Public Health Association