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

October XX, 2010

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128, Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146A, Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, HHS and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran and Harkin and Representatives Obey, Lewis and Tiahrt:

The undersigned members of the Friends of HRSA Coalition urge you to provide the highest possible FY 2011 funding level for the Health Resources and Services Administration as you work to conference the House and Senate FY 2011 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bills. This year, our coalition has advocated for an FY 2011 funding level of at least $9.15 billion for HRSA.

The Friends of HRSA coalition is a non-profit and non-partisan alliance of national organizations, collectively representing millions of public health and health care professionals, academicians and consumers. The coalition's principal goal is to ensure that HRSA's broad health programs receive the support necessary to reach the populations presently underserved by the nation's patchwork of health services.

As stated in earlier correspondence this year, we are appreciative of your past efforts to provide increased support for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in FY 2010. While recognizing the constraints of the current budgetary climate, our request of $9.15 billion for HRSA in FY 2011 reflects the minimum amount necessary for the agency to adequately meet the needs of the populations it serves. The relatively level funding HRSA has received over the past several years has undermined the ability of its successful programs to grow; more is needed for the agency to

achieve its ultimate mission of ensuring access to culturally competent, quality health services; eliminating health disparities; and rebuilding the public health and health care infrastructure.

Through its programs in every state and thousands of communities across the country, HRSA is a national leader in providing health services for individuals and families throughout the country and serves as a health safety net for the medically underserved including the 50.7 million Americans who were uninsured in 2009 and 50 million Americans who live in neighborhoods where primary health care services are scarce.

Greater investment is necessary to sufficiently fund HRSA services and programs that continue to face increasing demands. As Congress and the Administration move forward with implementation of the Affordable Care Act, we urge you to consider HRSA's role in building the foundation for health service delivery and ensuring that vulnerable populations transition smoothly into a new health system to receive quality health services, while continuing to strengthen our nation's health safety net programs. By supporting, planning for and adapting to change, we can build on the successes of the past and address new gaps that emerge as a result of health system reform.

We are grateful for your support in the past and **urge you to support the highest possible level of funding for the Health Resources and Services Administration in FY 2011 appropriations**.

Sincerely,

AIDS Action
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Dental Hygienists' Association
American Heart Association
American Medical Student Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Public Health Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
Association of Academic Health Centers
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 Schools of Public Health
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Autism Society
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
Coalition for Health Services Research
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
Council of Accredit MPH Programs
Council on Social Work Education
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Easter Seals
Hepatitis Foundation International
HIV Medicine Association
Howard University Health Sciences
March of Dimes Foundation
Meharry Medical College
Morehouse School of Medicine
NAADAC, The Association for Addiction Professionals
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors.
National Association of Local Boards of Health
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
National Hispanic Medical Association
North American Primary Care Research Group
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
The AIDS Institute

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee
House Appropriations Committee