



Restore Funding for Title VII Allied Health Programs

WHAT IS TITLE VII:

Title VII provides funding for 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. These programs provide direct financial support for health care workforce development and education.

The programs developed and funded under Title VII, specifically those designed to foster growth in the amount of trained allied health workers, are vitally important to the maintenance and improvement of our nation's healthcare system. Title VII optimistically focuses dollars towards the expansion of the allied health workforce.

ISSUES FACING TITLE VII FUNDING:

Last year, Congress slashed the Title VII Allied Health Professions program by 68 percent. Funding for the programs, which include the establishment and expansion of allied health training programs serving the laboratory workforce, was reduced from \$300 million in fiscal year 2005 to \$94 million for the 2006 fiscal year. Funding for the allied health and other disciplines account was specifically reduced from \$11.8 million to \$4 million for the 2006 fiscal year. And Congress altogether eliminated funding for the allied health special project grants that fund medical technology education programs under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act.

Hope remains as Congress maintains a commitment to these programs, though year by year it gets harder for them to do so. As funded now, Title VII is assured ineffectiveness and certain total elimination. In the past, the allied health special project grants as part of Title VII provided funding for medical technology and clinical laboratory science programs in academic settings. These programs in turn help educate laboratory professionals across the country. Advances in clinical laboratory testing detect and diagnose diseases faster and more accurately than ever before, allowing physicians to prescribe more effective – and often less invasive – treatment options. Because these important health care practitioners seldom have direct patient contact, their critical role in health care often goes unnoticed.

WHAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS CAN DO:

Support restoration of funding for Title VII allied health programs at the FY 2005 appropriated level.