



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

November 2008

**TITLE VII HEALTH PROFESSION TRAINING GRANTS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

We urge the prompt reauthorization of the Health Professions Training Programs authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Services Act. The revitalized health professions program for the Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry Cluster of Title VII (Section 747) are needed to train the primary care physicians vital to the future health care system.

Further, we recommend an appropriation for the Health Professions Training Programs authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Services Act of at least \$300 million, to include \$92 million for Section 747, to restore the Section 747 Primary Care Training program to its fiscal year 2003 level.

**Section 747 Accomplishments**

- Increases in the nation's primary care workforce;
- Increases in the number of physicians serving in underserved areas;
- Develop of a family medicine educational infrastructure;
- Support curriculum changes needed to develop evidence-based family medicine practice training and innovations in training around emerging health care issues.

**BACKGROUND**

The legislative authorization of the health professions training grant programs (Title VII of the Public Health Services Act) lapsed in 2003. The 2002 assessment of the Office of Management and Budget which called the Title VII program ineffective and the inability of Congress to reauthorize it have made it difficult to increase Title VII appropriations for primary care training.

Senator Clinton and Representative DeGette introduced the Health Professions and Primary Care Reinvestment Act (S. 3708 and H.R. 7302) to reauthorize Title VII. AAFP supports reauthorization of the Title VII Health Professions Training Programs.

Title VII Section 747 received an appropriation of \$47,998,000 in the omnibus for FY 2008, which was \$853,000 below FY07. For FY09, the Bush Administration proposed eliminating Health Professions Training Programs, the House Appropriations Subcommittee sought to provide level funding of \$48 million for Section 747 grants, and the Senate Appropriations Committee provided \$48.9 million to restore them to the FY07 level.

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