

OPTI-West Research & Faculty Development E-Bulletin

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“This is a very important notice from AACOM. We are sending it as an OPTI-West Research & Faculty Development E-Bulletin because of the immense potential impact for OPTI-West residency program support. As some of you may know, Title VII funds were a mainstay for residency funding of special programs until about five years ago, when they were nearly eliminated. These funds will be back full force if the sign-on letter goes forward and can be used to fund many aspects of Graduate Medical Education including resident research, faculty development, and special projects. The application procedure is a bit detailed, but the payoff is huge for successfully funded applications. I will send more information as it becomes available along with application procedures. I believe the chances for restoration of Title VII funding is very high and I will keep you posted. Even if the entire \$330 M package is not appropriated, there is reason to be optimistic about a significant increase over current rates.”

AACOM Action Alert

Title VII Funding Letter Circulated in Senate

[Take Action!](#)

(Apr. 27, 2009) Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Pat Roberts (R-KS) have circulated to all Senate offices a sign-on letter in support of the health professions programs under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. The Title VII programs provide direct federal support for health care workforce development and education.

Title VII authorizes a variety of grants for students and educational institutions to improve the geographic distribution, quality, and racial and ethnic diversity of the health care workforce. The Title VII programs are designed to meet our nation's needs by: increasing the supply of primary medical and dental care providers and public health and allied health professionals; training more health professionals in fields experiencing shortages; improving the geographic distribution of health professionals; expanding access to health care in underserved areas; and enhancing minority representation in the pool of practicing health professionals.

The sign-on letter is addressed to Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Ranking Minority Member Arlen Specter (R-PA) of the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee and urges that the funding level for the Title VII programs be increased to \$330 million in fiscal year 2010 to "continue to improve the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce in a manner that is consistent with the needs of the nation."

Please contact your Senators today and urge them to sign the Reed-Roberts letter. The sign-on letter will close on Thursday, April 30, 2009. Please ask your Senator to contact Kate Mevis at 202-224-4642 or kate_mevis@reed.senate.gov in Senator Reed's office or Alison Anway at 202-224-4774 or alison_anway@roberts.senate.gov in Senator Roberts' office to sign the letter. If your Senator has already agreed to sign the letter, please thank him or her for doing so. **Please note that there is no need to contact the recipients of the letter, Chairman Harkin of Iowa and Ranking Minority Member Specter of Pennsylvania.**

Thank you!

*William J. Cairney, PhD
Executive Director, OPTI-West*