

August 20, 2014



Better health through
laboratory medicine.

The Honorable Mary Wakefield
Administrator
Health Resources and Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Administrator Wakefield:

We, the undersigned health professional organizations, write to request a meeting to discuss concerns relating to the recognition and support for our vital health professions within the emerging structure of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

On June 3, 2014, the HRSA issued its "Statement of Organization, Functions and Delegations of Authority" in the *Federal Register* establishing the new Bureau of Health Workforce and abolishing the Bureau of Health Professions among other actions. Concerning to our organizations is the lack of specific reference to rehabilitation, allied health and laboratory medicine professions within this new structure. We acknowledge the establishment of the *Division of Medicine and Dentistry* and the *Division of Nursing and Public Health* within the new Bureau of Health Workforce. These new divisions recognize the significant role and impact these professions have on the delivery of health care in the U.S. today. Concerning, however, is the lack of such recognition of rehabilitation, allied health and laboratory medicine professions within the new HRSA structure.

Existing and emerging shortages of rehabilitation, allied health and laboratory medicine are on par with those of medicine and nursing. The Allied Health Special Projects and Grants Program, which historically has provided grant resources to these health professional education programs to address such shortages, has received no funding from Congress since 2006 and has not been supported by the Administration in recent budget submissions to Congress.

On July 3, 2014, representatives from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science met with Dr. Joan Weiss and others at HRSA relating to these concerns. We seek an audience with you at your convenience to discuss ways that we can work with HRSA to



ensure appropriate recognition and support for all health professions and particularly those with ongoing shortages. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your ongoing efforts to meet the health care needs of communities across the nation. Please contact Patrick Cooney at 202-347-0034 x101 or via email at Patrick@federalgrp.com to arrange a time to meet that works with your busy schedule.

Sincerely,

**American Association for Clinical Chemistry
American Association for Respiratory Care
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
American Speech Language Pathology Association**