



MAY 2026 ACTION ALERT

URGE YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO SUPPORT AHEC FUNDING AND HRSA TITLE VII REAUTHORIZATION!

Background

In the past few weeks, the FY 2027 President’s Budget Request (PBR) to Congress was released and again requested \$0 for the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program. When this happened in FY 2026, we saw that the Senate and House did not align with the administration and provided \$47 million (level funding) for the AHEC Program in FY 2026. We expect a similar approach in FY 2027, as Congress continues to prioritize constituent voices when constructing their FY 2027 appropriations bills. **Your legislators need to hear from you to encourage them to support NAO’s ideal funding recommendation of \$67 million for the AHEC program, consistent with the statutory language.**

<u>AHEC Program</u>	
Included in the Final Appropriations Bill for FY 2026	\$47 million (level with FY 2025)
Included in the FY27 President’s Budget Request (PBR)	\$0
Included in FY26 House LHHS Report	TBD
Included in FY26 Senate LHHS Report	TBD
NAO Conference Recommendation for FY 2027	\$67 million

The FY 2026 appropriations cycle concluded in January, with Congress approving \$47 million for the AHEC program—maintaining critical support for workforce development in rural and underserved communities. We now have the FY 2027 President’s Budget Request to Congress (PBR), which is a non-binding document and essentially seen as a messaging document from the Administration to reiterate their priorities. We expect Congress to continue to provide meaningful funding to the AHEC program, but to ensure this happens, they need to hear from the AHECs across the country.

Engaging directly with your members of Congress during this stage of the FY 2027 appropriations process, when both the House and Senate are working to construct and markup their FY 2027 bills, is an effective way to build support and ensure AHEC centers receive the resources they need to thrive. We are urging legislators to increase funding for the AHEC Program in FY 2027, but we hope they at the very least provide level funding. Boosted resources will empower our centers to expand training, recruitment, and retention efforts for the healthcare workforce, strengthening access to quality care where it's needed most.

We are also asking legislators to support and advance Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII reauthorization (includes the AHEC program) before the end of this calendar year. The House version of the reauthorization legislation (H.R. 4262) was advanced through the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee but has not advanced through the full committee. The Senate version (S.4110) has been introduced and is being led by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (AL) and Sen. Jack Reed (RI). We expect the Senate version to advance in a larger healthcare package later this year, likely after the midterm elections, at the same time Congress will be working to finalize FY 2027 appropriations.

Reach out to your House Representative and two Senators to urge them to support \$67 million for the AHEC Program in FY 2027 and for their support for reauthorization of HRSA Title VII programs in the 119th Congress!

Take Action

If you are unsure of who to contact, please follow the steps below.

- Identify your Representative in the House and your two Senators in the Senate. You may find your House Representative [here](#) and your Senators [here](#).
- Once you have identified your members, reach out to HMC (contact: Kaitlyn Dries, dries@hmcw.org) to get the email address of the health staffer for a particular office.

- With the email addresses in hand, email the health staffer for each of your specific congressional offices (i.e. two Senate offices and one House office). This will make a total of 3 individual emails you will be sending.
 - Be sure to include your contact information if they want to follow up with any questions.
- If you are having trouble getting in touch with an office, feel free to reach out to NAO's Washington Representatives at the Health and Medicine Counsel (contact: Kira Flaherty, flaherty@hmcw.org).

Suggested Advocacy Talking Points/Email Message

As you contact offices, use the template below as a reference to write emails to your three congressional offices. Please edit the information in brackets to be specific to you/the office you are emailing.

Hello/Dear **[Health Staffer's Name]**,

My name is **[Your Name]** and I am a constituent of **[Your Representative's/Senator's Name]** from **[Your Current/Hometown]**. I would like to thank Congress for including \$47 million for the AHEC program in FY 2026. This continued support is critically important for our centers to continue to respond to health care shortages and challenges, particularly in rural and disadvantaged communities. As Congress works on Fiscal Year 2027 appropriations bills, please support the HRSA Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program at a funding level of **\$67.00 million for FY 2027, or the greatest possible increase. \$67 million corresponds to the requirement of \$250,000 per AHEC per year included in the program's statute.**

In addition to FY 2027 funding, I also encourage your offices' support of reauthorization of the HRSA Title VII programs, which includes the AHEC program and other key pathway and health workforce programs. The reauthorization for the programs expired in 2025.

[Briefly explain your role with AHEC and how your AHEC program supports LOCAL community-based health professions training, placements, and rotations. Go into detail on how your office/center responds to public health emergencies, addresses health workforce challenges, places learners in rural and hard to reach areas, and carries out initiatives like the AHEC Scholars program. Leave your contact information with the office and establish yourself as a resource. Discuss the local and national presence of AHECs, and how increased funding in FY 2027 and reauthorization will help to continue the work to address health workforce shortages and challenges in the most rural and vulnerable communities.]

Thank you for your time and consideration of these recommendations. Please consider me and the National AHEC Organization (NAO) resources as the legislative processes continue.

Sincerely,
[Your Signature]

Engagement Tip

There are several freshman members of Congress, as well as new Health Staffers in several congressional offices. When communicating directly with the Health Staffer in the office, it is likely helpful to give them a brief overview of what the AHEC program is, what it does, and data/outcomes showing its impact.

Additionally, at the bottom of this document there are key offices on relevant committees. While any member can be helpful in advancing our recommendations, if any of your congressional offices are listed below, it is critical you get in touch with them.

Final Step

Please share any feedback you get from your congressional offices! Feedback can be sent to NAO's Public Policy Committee (Courtney Combs at courtney.combs@utoledo.edu and Dwain Harris at dwharris@nationalahec.org). This feedback will then be compiled and sent to Philip Goglas II and Kira Flaherty from the Health and Medicine Counsel where they can follow up with the offices based on responses.

Thank you,
NAO Public Policy Committee, National AHEC Organization

FY 2027 KEY OFFICES on the House and Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees:

House Republican LHHS members:

Robert Aderholt, Alabama, Chair
Mike Simpson, Idaho
Andy Harris, Maryland
Chuck Fleischmann, Tennessee
John Moolenaar, Michigan
Julia Letlow, Louisiana, Vice Chair
Andrew Clyde, Georgia
Jake Ellzey, Texas
Stephanie Bice, Oklahoma
Riley Moore, West Virginia

House Democrat LHHS members:

Rosa DeLauro, Connecticut, Ranking Member
Steny Hoyer, Maryland
Mark Pocan, Wisconsin
Lois Frankel, Florida
Bonnie Watson Coleman, New Jersey
Josh Harder, California
Madeleine Dean, Pennsylvania

Senate Republican LHHS members:

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, West Virginia (Chair)
Sen. Lindsey Graham, South Carolina
Sen. Jerry Moran, Kansas
Sen. John Kennedy, Louisiana
Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mississippi
Sen. John Boozman, Arkansas
Sen. Katie Britt, Alabama
Sen. Markwayne Mullin, Oklahoma
Sen. Mike Rounds, South Dakota

Senate Democrat LHHS members:

Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin (Ranking Member)
Sen. Patty Murray, Washington
Sen. Richard Durbin, Illinois
Sen. Jack Reed, Rhode Island
Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire
Sen. Jeff Merkley, Oregon
Sen. Brian Schatz, Hawaii
Sen. Chris Murphy, Connecticut

REAUTHORIZATION KEY OFFICES on the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee and Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee:

House Republican Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee members:

Morgan Griffith, Virginia, Chair
Diana Harshbarger, Tennessee, Vice Chair
Gus Bilirakis, Florida
Buddy Carter, Georgia
Neal Dunn, Florida
Dan Crenshaw, Texas
John Joyce, Pennsylvania
Troy Balderson, Ohio
Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Iowa
Kat Cammack, Florida
Jay Obernolte, California
John James, Michigan
Cliff Bentz, Oregon
Erin Houchin, Indiana
Nick Langworthy, New York
Tom Kean, New Jersey
Michael Rulli, Ohio
Brett Guthrie, Kentucky

Senate Republican HELP Committee members:

Bill Cassidy, Louisiana, Chair
Rand Paul, Kentucky
Susan Collins, Maine
Lisa Murkowski, Alaska
Markwayne Mullin, Oklahoma
Roger Marshall, Kansas
Tim Scott, South Carolina,
Josh Hawley, Missouri
Tommy Tuberville, Alabama
Jim Banks, Indiana
John Husted, Ohio
Ashley Moody, Florida

House Democrat Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee members:

Diana DeGette, Colorado, Ranking Member
Raul Ruiz, California
Debbie Dingell, Michigan
Robin Kelly, Illinois
Nanette Diaz Barragan, California
Kim Schrier, Washington
Lori Trahan, Massachusetts
Marc Veasey, Texas
Lizzie Fletcher, Texas
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, New York
Jake Auchincloss, Massachusetts
Troy Carter, Louisiana
Greg Landsman, Ohio
Frank Pallone, New Jersey

Senate Democrat HELP Committee members:

Bernie Sanders, Vermont, Ranking Member
Patty Murray, Washington
Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin
Christopher Murphy, Connecticut
Tim Kaine, Virginia
Maggie Hassan, New Hampshire
John Hickenlooper, Colorado
Ed Markey, Massachusetts
Andy Kim, New Jersey
Lisa Blunt Rochester, Delaware
Angela Alsobrooks, Maryland