



July 13, 2015

Dear Senator:

The 185 undersigned organizations representing patients, health professionals, hospitals, scientists, medical schools, employers, and insurers are very concerned by the 35 percent reduction in funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in the Senate's fiscal year (FY) 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill.

AHRQ's mission is to generate the evidence necessary to build a high-quality, high-value health care system. Put simply, AHRQ-funded research is being used in hospitals, private practices, health departments, and communities across the nation to make our health care system less complex and costly. Its research fuels innovation and improves quality, identifies waste, and enhances efficiency in the health care system. It is used by patients, their loved ones, and their health care professionals to make the right health care decisions for themselves and their families. This research helps Americans get their money's worth when it comes to health care. We need more of it, not less.

Lawmakers face difficult choices in funding myriad priorities with increasingly limited resources, but deep to cuts to AHRQ in the current fiscal environment is pennywise and pound foolish. Our nation spends \$3 trillion annually on health care – the largest share of which are federal purchases through Medicare, Medicaid, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan, insurance exchanges, TRICARE, and veterans' health care. Americans deserve reliable information on how to deliver the best possible care, at the greatest value, with the best outcomes. AHRQ-funded health services research provides those answers. Without AHRQ and health services research to determine what treatments work best, for whom, and in what settings, the cures and treatments developed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will fall short on their promise to patients.

We recognize the reduction in AHRQ's budget authority is largely a function of the historically low and grossly inadequate subcommittee allocation for health research and other critical public health, education, and workforce training programs in this bill. **We hope lawmakers will work together to enact sequestration relief, increase the Labor-HHS subcommittee allocation, and restore AHRQ's budget authority to \$364 million in the final FY 2016 appropriations legislation.** For more information on the Friends of AHRQ, contact Emily Holubowich at 202.484.1100 or eholubowich@dc-crd.com.

Sincerely,

AACC
Academic Pediatric Association
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
AcademyHealth
Adult Congenital Heart Association

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Alliance for Aging Research
AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Assembly for Men in Nursing (AAMN)
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for Physician Leadership
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM)
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination (AANAC)
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American Association on Health and Disability
American Board of Medical Specialties
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Chiropractic Association
American College of Cardiology (ACC)
American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Gastroenterological Association
American Heart Association
American Medical Student Association (ASMA)
American Nephrology Nurses' Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Optometric Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Pediatric Surgical Nurses Association (APSNA)
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Nutrition
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Nephrology

American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPAN)
American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS)
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
American Thoracic Society
Arbor Research Collaborative for Health
ARHP: the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS)
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Departments of Family Medicine (ADFM)
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD)
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Population Centers
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of University Radiologists
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Baylor Scott & White Health
Billings Clinic
BJC HealthCare
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston University School of Public Health
Brown University Center for Long-Term Care Quality & Innovation
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science
Coalition for Health Funding
Coalition of National Health Education Organizations
College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)
Columbia University Medical Center
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Connecticut Certification Board
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cornell University
Creighton University School of Medicine
Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Duke University School of Medicine
ECRI Institute
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
Fight Colorectal Cancer
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
Global Healthy Living Foundation
Group Health Cooperative
Guidelines International Network/North America (G-I-N/NA)
Health Quality Advisors, LLC

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
Healthy Teen Network
HIV Medicine Association
Illinois Alcohol and Drug Dependence Association
Indiana University
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium
International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses
Lakeshore Foundation
March of Dimes
Marshfield Clinic Health System
Mayo Clinic
Medica Research Institute
Montefiore Medical Center
Morehouse School of Medicine
Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine
NAPHSIS
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
National Alopecia Areata Foundation
National Black Nurses Association
National Center for Health Research
National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)
National Gerontological Nurses Association
National Hemophilia Foundation (NHF)
National Kidney Foundation
National League for Nursing
National Nursing Centers Consortium
National Organization for Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)
National Partnership for Women & Families
NextGen Healthcare
North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG)
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA)
NYU Langone Medical Center
Ochsner Health System
Oncology Nursing Society
Oregon Health & Science University
Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute (PAMFRI)
Partners HealthCare
Pediatric Policy Council
Penn Medicine
Penn State University
Physician Assistant Education Association
Population Association of America
Public Health Institute
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Saint Francis Care
Scleroderma Foundation
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Medical Decision Making (SMDM)

Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Women's Health Research
Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM)
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM)
The American Hospital Association
The Center for Healthcare Organizational and Innovation Research (CHOIR), School of
Public Health, UC-Berkeley
The Leapfrog Group
The Marfan Foundation
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
The Sturge-Weber Foundation
Trust for America's Health
Tulane University
UC Irvine Health
UC San Diego Health
University for the Division of Health Policy and Management, School of Public Health,
University of Minnesota
University of California
University of California, Davis
University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)
University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center
University of North Carolina Health Care System
University of North Carolina School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Community Providers Services
University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine
University of South Florida Health
University of Washington
UNTHSC School of Public Health
Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
Wateree AIDS Task Force, Sumter, SC 29150