



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](mailto: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