

July 30, 2012

Dear Member of Congress:

The 139 undersigned organizations representing patients, health professionals, hospitals, scientists, patients, employers, and insurers strongly oppose the FY 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill as reported by the subcommittee on July 18. We are gravely concerned by the assault on science and research, particularly the elimination of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

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

To "terminate" AHRQ in the current fiscal environment is pennywise and pound foolish. Our nation spends more than \$2.6 trillion annually on health care – the largest share of which are federal purchases through Medicare, Medicaid, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan, 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.

We are deeply disappointed by the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill and especially the attack on AHRQ. We urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to oppose any bill that terminates this agency and its important research. For more information on the Friends of AHRQ, contact Emily Holubowich at 202.484.1100 or eholubowich@dc-crd.com.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association Academy of Radiology Research AcademyHealth Adult Congenital Heart Association Alliance for Aging Research American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physician Assistants

American Association for Dental Research

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM)

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)

American Association on Health and Disability

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American College of Cardiology

American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

American College of Physicians

American College of Preventive Medicine

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

American Health Planning Association

American Heart Association

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)

American Medical Student Association

American Nurses Association

American Osteopathic Association

American Pediatric Society

American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychological Association

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

American Society of Hematology

American Society of Nephrology

American Statistical Association

American Thoracic Society

Amputee Coalition

Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation

Arthritis Foundation

Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY)

Association for Prevention Teaching and Research

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC)

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

Association of Departments of Family Medicine

Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors

Association of Maternal Child and Health Programs (AMCHP)

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston

Brigham and Women's Hospital

Campaign for Public Health Foundation

Cecil G Sheps Center for Health Services Research

Cedars-Sinai Health System

Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics, George Mason University

Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)

Cleveland Clinic

Coalition for Health Funding

Coalition for Imaging and Bioengineering Research

Columbia University Medical Center

Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals

Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)

Creighton University Center for Health Services Research and Patient Safety (CHRP)

Creighton University Center for Oral Health Research

CWRU Center for Health Care Research & Policy

Duke Translational Medicine Institute

Duke University Medical Center

High Value Healthcare Collaborative (HVHC)

Indiana University

Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research

Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)

James M Anderson Center for Health Systems Excellence, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical

Center

Johns Hopkins University

Joint Advocacy Coalition of ACRT, APOR, CRF, and SCTS

Kaiser Permanente

Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, University of Pennsylvania

March of Dimes

Marshfield Clinic

Massachusetts General Hospital

Mayo Clinic

McLean Hospital

Medical Group Management Association (MGMA)

Mental Health America

Michigan State University

Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University

Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine

National Assembly on School-Based Health Care

National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS)

National Association of Epilepsy Centers

National Association of Health Data Organizations (NAHDO)

National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH)

National Association of Social Workers

National Business Group on Health (NBGH)

National Osteoporosis Foundation

National Patient Advocate Foundation

National Physicians Alliance

National Rural Health Association

National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable

North American Primary Care Research Group

Northwestern University

NYU Langone Medical Center

Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF)

Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute (PAMFRI)

Partners HealthCare

Penn Medicine

Penn State University

Research!America

RTI International

RWJF Center for Health Policy at Meharry Medical College

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center

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 Hospital Medicine

Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital

Spina Bifida Association

Stony Brook University Medicine

The AIDS Institute

The Lupus Foundation of America

The Regenstrief Institute

The Schneider Institutes for HealthCare Policy

Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance

UCLA Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research

UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

University of Illinois Chicago College of Medicine

University of Massachusetts Medical School

University of Minnesota

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) School of Public Health
University of Texas System
University of Utah Health Sciences
Vanderbilt University
Weill Cornell Medical College