



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](mailto: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 (AAP)  
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