



June 22, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

The 144 undersigned organizations representing patients, health professionals, hospitals, scientists, patients, employers, and insurers strongly oppose the fiscal year (FY) 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill as posted by the subcommittee on June 16. We are gravely concerned by the assault on science, 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. 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.

To "terminate" 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.

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 Nutrition and Dietetics  
AcademyHealth  
Adult Congenital Heart Association  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Alliance for Aging Research  
America's Essential Hospitals  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN)

American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Assembly for Men in Nursing (AAMN)  
American Association for Physician Leadership  
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  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination (AANAC)  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Board of Medical Specialties  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)  
American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Surgeons  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)  
American Hospital Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Nephrology Nurses' Association  
American Nurses Association (ANA)  
American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
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 for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPN)  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
American Thoracic Society  
Arbor Research Collaborative for Health  
ARHP: the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators (ACHNE)  
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 Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN)  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses  
Association of University Radiologists (AUR)  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)  
Billings Clinic  
BJC HealthCare  
Boston University School of Public Health  
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals  
Cedars-Sinai Health System  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Coalition of National Health Education Organizations (CNHEO)  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)  
Connecticut Certification Board  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Cornell University  
Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
Duke University School of Medicine  
ECRI Institute  
Group Health Cooperative  
Guidelines International Network/North America (G-I-N/NA)  
Healthcare Information Management and Systems Society (HIMSS)  
Healthy Teen Network  
Heart Rhythm Society  
HIV Medicine Association  
HIV Services, Alameda Health Systems  
Illinois Alcohol and Drug Dependence Association  
Indiana University  
Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research  
International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium  
International Society of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses (ISPN)  
Kaiser Permanente  
Lakeshore Foundation  
March of Dimes  
Marshfield Clinic Health System  
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  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Center for Health Research  
National Gerontological Nurses Association  
National Hemophilia Foundation  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Kidney Foundation

National League for Nursing  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Organization for Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)  
North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG)  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA)  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute (PAMFRI)  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Penn Medicine  
Penn State College of Medicine  
Physician Assistant Education Association  
Population Association of America  
Public Health Institute  
RTI International  
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
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  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM)  
The Center for Healthcare Organizational and Innovation Research (CHOIR), School of Public Health, UC-Berkeley  
Trust for America's Health  
Tulane University  
University for the Division of Health Policy and Management, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota  
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine  
University of South Florida Health  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
UNTHSC School of Public Health  
Wateree AIDS Task Force, Sumter, SC 29150  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease