



January 3, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS
Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS
Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS
Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS
Education and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Kingston and Ranking Members Moran and DeLauro:

I am writing in my capacity as the President of the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM), a national medical society of more than 3,000 physicians who are the primary internal medicine faculty of every medical school and major teaching hospital in the United States. SGIM members teach medical students, residents and fellows how to care for adult patients. They also conduct research that improves primary care, preventative measures and treatment services for patients.

As you work toward a conference agreement on the fiscal year 2014 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, I strongly urge you to provide sufficient funds to ensure that high-quality, coordinated primary care services are available to all Americans. Since your decisions will influence the quality of medical education, research and clinical practice for years to come, I urge you to:

- Appropriate \$150 million for Training in Primary Care Medicine to support training and improved general competencies of primary care professionals, as well as \$30 million for Centers of Excellence and \$30 million for the Health Careers Opportunity Program, all located at the Health Resources and Services Administration.
- Provide at least \$32.0 billion for the federal government's uniquely-effective biomedical research establishment, as led by the National Institutes of Health.
- Provide not less than \$430 million in non-PCORI funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the lead federal science agency for producing and promoting use of evidence to make health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable.
- Fully fund the National Healthcare Workforce Commission at a level of \$3.0 million.

SGIM strongly supports the conference committee in its critical work and urges you to move forward with a balanced approach to the fiscal issues confronting the country. If SGIM can be helpful in your work, please do not hesitate to contact David Karlson, our Executive Director, at 202-887-5150 or karlsond@sgim.org.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric B Bass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric B. Bass, MD, MPH, President

cc The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
 The Honorable Hal Rogers
 The Honorable Richard Shelby
 The Honorable Nita Lowey