



April 21, 2011

The Honorable Dennis R. Rehberg
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) funds research and programs at local universities, hospitals, and health departments that improve health care quality, enhance consumer choice, advance patient safety, improve efficiency, reduce medical errors, and broaden access to essential services—transforming people’s health in communities in every state around the nation. To support these efforts, the Friends of AHRQ urges you to provide AHRQ **\$405 million in FY 2012**—a two percent increase over FY 2010 enacted levels.

The science funded by AHRQ provides consumers and their health care professionals with valuable evidence to make the right health care decisions for themselves and their families. AHRQ’s research also provides the basis for protocols that prevent medical errors and reduce hospital-acquired infections, and improve patient confidence, experiences, and outcomes in hospitals, clinics, and physician offices.

Our modest request of \$405 million is not indicative of our nation’s true need for evidence about health care delivery. Instead, our request balances your goal to restrain increases in federal spending while sustaining momentum to generate more and better evidence and make a measurable difference in health care for all Americans. The Friends of AHRQ thanks you for your ongoing support and looks forward to helping you further strengthen the agency.

The Friends of AHRQ is a coalition of health professional, research, consumer, and employer organizations dedicated to ensuring the agency’s continued vital role in improving our nation’s health. For more information on the Friends of AHRQ, contact Emily Holubowich at 202.484.1100 or eholubowich@dc-crd.com.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Clinical Chemistry
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American College of Cardiology
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Gastroenterological Association
American Heart Association
American Hospital Association
American Nurses Association
American Organization of Nurse Executives
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychiatric Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Nephrology
American Statistical Association
Arthritis Foundation
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Schools of Public Health
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Coalition for Health Services Research
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.
Consortium of Social Science Associations
March of Dimes

National Business Group on Health
National Osteoporosis Foundation
North American Primary Care Research Group
Research!America
RTI International
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Hospital Medicine
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
Society for Medical Decision Making
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Women's Health Research
Spina Bifida Association
The Joint Commission