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August 18, 2023

Martha Gerrity, MD, MPH, PhD, FACP
Portland, OR
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The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chair Granger, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) strongly urges you to appropriate \$370.5 million, the amount included in the Senate Appropriations Committee approved Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in fiscal year (FY) 2024.

SGIM is a member-based internal medical association of more than 3,000 of the nation's leading general internal medicine physicians, who are dedicated to achieving a just system of care in which all people can achieve optimal health. Our members are committed to delivering high quality care and ensuring patients in all parts of the country have access to a well-trained physician workforce.

As a leading advocate for research that improves the quality of health care, SGIM recognizes the indispensable role that AHRQ plays in enhancing the effectiveness, safety, and efficiency of health care delivery in the United States. The research and programs funded by AHRQ contribute to invaluable insights, innovative practices, and evidence-based solutions that ultimately improve patient outcomes, reduce health care costs, and promote the overall wellbeing of our nation. AHRQ's National Center for Excellence in Primary Care Research has made significant investments in research to support primary care transformation to meet the country's care needs. Specifically, these investments have focused on behavioral health and substance use disorders, care coordination, and health information technology and digital health, which are critical to meeting the health care needs of Americans regardless of their proximity to a major medical center.

While the Senate Appropriations Committee's funding level of \$370.5 million for AHRQ represents a \$3 million cut below the FY 2023 level, it demonstrates a deep commitment to fostering high-quality research, innovation, and evidence-based practices in health care, particularly in this challenging fiscal environment. This funding level, compared to the House's proposal to eliminate the agency, will enable AHRQ to continue its vital work in supporting



groundbreaking research initiatives, disseminating best practices throughout the country, and facilitating collaboration among researchers, health care professionals, and policymakers. As the appropriations process moves toward its conclusion, we respectfully request that you fund AHRQ at \$370.5 million in FY 2024 to ensure AHRQ's important work continues. Your leadership and dedication to advancing health care research and quality improvement are invaluable, and your support for AHRQ will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on the health and prosperity of individuals across the nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your instrumental role in securing the adoption of the Senate funding level for AHRQ in the final FY2024 appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Martha L. Gerrity'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a loop at the end of the last name.

Martha Gerrity, MD, MPH, PhD, FACP
President, SGIM

CC: Chair Tammy Baldwin, Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito, Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee
Chair Robert Aderholt, Chair, House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee