



December 14, 2009

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

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Obey, Chairman Harkin, Representative Tiahrt, and Senator Cochran:

On behalf of the Friends of AHRQ, please accept our thanks for your support of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of FY2010. The Friends of AHRQ is a voluntary alliance of over 200 health professional, research, consumer, and employer organizations dedicated to ensuring the agency's continued vital role in improving our nation's health.

The \$397 million provided to AHRQ will support research to help improve health care quality, reduce costs, advance patient safety, decrease medical errors, and broaden access to essential services. The Friends of AHRQ are especially grateful for the nearly \$24 million for investigator initiated research grants. This unprecedented investment will begin to reverse recent declines in the numbers of competitive grants funded by AHRQ and will increase capacity for more innovative discoveries.

At a time when you, your congressional colleagues, and members of the administration are considering major health reform, AHRQ's research is needed more than ever to build the evidence-base to help policymakers improve health and health care. The Friends thank you for your ongoing support of AHRQ and look forward to helping you further strengthen the agency.

For more information on the Friends of AHRQ, including a list of our members, please visit <http://www.chsr.org/friendsofahrq.htm>. You may also contact the Friends representative, Emily Holubowich, at 202.484.1100 or [eholubowich@dc-crd.com](mailto:eholubowich@dc-crd.com).