



December 17, 2008

Hon. Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. David Obey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. James Walsh  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Specter, Chairman Obey, and Ranking Member Walsh:

The Friends of AHRQ (list attached) wish to thank you for your support of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). We respectfully urge you to provide AHRQ through the final Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill \$375 million for fiscal year 2009, consistent with the level proposed earlier this year by the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee. AHRQ supports research to improve health care quality, reduce costs, advance patient safety, decrease medical errors, and broaden access to essential services. AHRQ provides the high quality, unbiased information needed to make educated decisions about our health care.

As you know, there has been a dramatic decline in the number of, and funding for, grants that support researcher innovation and career development. The Friends of AHRQ support the language and funding proposed in the House and Senate Labor-HHS reports for new and competing grants to rejuvenate the free marketplace of ideas, and greater investment in young researchers to ensure the field's capacity to respond to the growing public and private sector demand for research. We hope you will provide AHRQ in the conference bill \$13 million for such investigator initiated research and professional development—consistent with the level proposed by the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee.

With the \$40 million increase proposed by the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee—just 0.002 percent of the \$2 trillion Americans spend annually on health

care—AHRQ will continue and begin to restore its critical health care safety, quality, and efficiency initiatives; strengthen the infrastructure of the research field; and reignite innovation and discovery.

At a time when you, your congressional colleagues, and members of the new administration are considering major health reform, your leadership demonstrates your commitment to AHRQ and building the evidence-based needed to ultimately improve health and health care. Please know that the Friends of AHRQ and our grassroots partners stand ready to support you in securing \$375 million for AHRQ in fiscal year 2009.

Please contact Emily Holubowich at 202.484.1100 or [eholubowich@dc-crd.com](mailto:eholubowich@dc-crd.com) with any questions or comments.



AARP

Academic Pediatric Association

Administrators of Internal Medicine

Advanced Initiatives in Medical Simulation

Aetna

AFL-CIO

Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine

Alliance for Aging Research

Ambulatory Pediatric Association

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons

American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery

American Academy of Pain Management

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physician Assistants

American Association for Clinical Chemistry

American Association for Dental Research

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of Critical-Care Nurses

American Cancer Society

American Chiropractic Association

American Clinical Laboratory Association

American College of Cardiology

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Healthcare Executives

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

American College of Physicians

American College of Preventive Medicine

American College of Rheumatology

American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology

American Dental Association

American Dental Education Association

American Federation for Medical Research

American Gastroenterological Association

American Geriatrics Society

American Health Planning Association

American Health Quality Association

American Heart Association

American Hospital Association

American Medical Association  
American Medical Informatics Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Pharmacists Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Psychiatric Nurse Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Public Human Services Association  
American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Internal Medicine  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Thoracic Society  
American Trauma Society  
Americans for Better Care of the Dying  
America's Health Insurance Plans  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association for Clinical Research Training  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Departments of Family Medicine  
Association of Family Practice Residency Directors  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Minority Health Professional Schools  
Association of Professors of Medicine  
Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine  
Association of Schools of Public Health  
Association of Specialty Professors  
Association of Subspecialty Professors  
Association of University Programs in Health Administration  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Brandeis University  
Center for Health Care Strategies, Inc.  
Center for Studying Health System Change  
Center for Telehealth & E-Health Law  
Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine  
Coalition for American Trauma Care  
Coalition for Health Funding  
Coalition for Health Information Policy

Coalition for Health Services Research  
Columbia University School of Public Health  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Consumer Health Access through Technology (CHATT) Coalition  
The Dow Chemical Company  
Duke University  
Excellus BlueCross BlueShield  
Ford Motor Company  
General Motors Corporation  
The George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center  
Harvard Medical School  
Harvard University  
Harvard University School of Public Health  
Health and Medicine Counsel of Washington  
Health Insurance Association of America  
Health Sector Supply Chain Research Consortium, Arizona State University  
HIP Health Plans  
Home Care Technology Association of America  
HSC Foundation  
International & American Associations for Dental Research  
Johns Hopkins University  
The Joint Commission  
Kaiser Permanente  
March of Dimes Foundation  
Marshfield Clinic  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Matria Healthcare, Inc.  
Medco Health Solutions  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Medical Device Manufacturers Association  
Medical Group Management Association  
Medical Library Association/Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
The Mount Sinai Medical Center  
Mount Sinai School of Medicine  
National Area Health Education Centers Organization  
National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems  
National Association of Chain Drug Stores  
National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions  
National Association of Local Boards of Health  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Business Coalition on Health  
National Business Group on Health  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
National Health Council

National Institute of Health Care Management  
National Mental Health Association  
National Osteoporosis Foundation  
National Partnership for Women and Families  
National Rural Health Association  
North American Primary Care Research Group  
Organizations of Academic Family Medicine  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
The Permanente Federation  
Pfizer  
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America  
Renal Physicians Association  
Research Triangle Institute  
Research!America  
RTI International  
Rutgers University  
Snell Prosthetic and Orthotic Laboratory  
Society for Adolescent Medicine  
Society for Medical Decision Making  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Spina Bifida Foundation  
United Health Group  
United Hospital Fund of New York  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of California, San Francisco  
University of Michigan  
University of Pennsylvania  
University Of Southern California  
University of Southern Maine, Institute for Health Policy, Muskie School of Public Service  
University of Tennessee, Memphis  
University of Washington  
Washington Business Group on Health  
WellPoint, Inc.