



March 2, 2026

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education and Related  
Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education and Related  
Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health  
and Human Services, Education and Related  
Agencies  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chair Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, Chair Aderholt, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

To meet the needs of America's patients, researchers, providers, and health systems, 259 leading organizations call for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to be fully funded at \$500 million in FY27 and that the Agency have sufficient staff to manage its statutory obligations.

The issues that frustrate Americans the most about health care – lack of access, low-value care, excessive wait times, distrust in expertise, burn out amongst medical providers, and more – are challenges that health services research (HSR) was designed to answer. Unfortunately, a lack of federal funding for this research has put us as a country at a disadvantage in improving health outcomes.

Federally funded health service research grants are how we identify what care is working best to improve health outcomes for patients. AHRQ is the leading federal agency for funding health services research and primary care research (PCR) that provides the evidence to help providers, patients, and policymakers make informed decisions. It is the bridge between cures and care to ensure that Americans get the best care at the best value.

As our nation faces multiple health crises, it is more critical than ever to improve our health systems. For example, rural communities are facing complex health challenges with the ongoing closures of rural hospitals and clinics leading to worsening health outcomes for residents. In parallel, the opioid crisis, which has disproportionately impacted rural America, has ravaged American life as overdose deaths are the leading cause of injury-related death in the U.S. In response to these challenges, AHRQ has long identified rural populations as a priority population to support and continues to fund research to improve rural health systems. We applaud demonstrated bipartisan interest in seeking to improve rural healthcare, and health services research is the bridge from challenges to solutions. AHRQ-funded projects fill these knowledge gaps.

AHRQ supports research to broaden access to essential services, improve health care quality, reduce costs, advance patient safety, and decrease medical errors. RAND Corporation released a [report](#) in 2020,



as called for by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, which identified AHRQ as “the only agency that has statutory authorizations to generate HSR and be the home for federal primary care research, and the unique focus of its research portfolio on systems-based outcomes (e.g., making health care safer, higher quality, more accessible, equitable, and affordable) and approaches to implementing improvement across health care settings and populations in the United States.” AHRQ offers valuable insights on every facet of the health care system. For example, the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine 2021 [report](#) on *Implementing High Quality Primary Care* highlighted the value of and need for federal investments in AHRQ through the National Center for Excellence in Primary Care Research.

To deliver better outcomes, we need to be able to differentiate which healthcare interventions work, for whom they work, and how to implement them. For example, the effectiveness of telehealth is diminished if we do not have an evidence-based approach to provide consistent access regardless of who the patient is, the medical care they require, and their access to technology, and addressing questions like these is where AHRQ has a proven track record.

While the vast majority of federally funded research focuses on one specific disease or organ system, AHRQ is the only federal agency that funds research at the point of care. The benefits of funding this type of research can be measured in saved lives, better value care, and improved patient outcomes to ultimately make America healthier. For example, implementing AHRQ-funded [studies](#) on reducing hospital acquired conditions prevented an estimated 20,500 hospital deaths and saved \$7.7 billion in health care costs from 2014 to 2017.

Unfortunately, insufficient funding coupled with reductions in force (RIFs) and the decision not to replace federal workers who have left the Agency have led to a total collapse in the ability of the Agency to fulfill its statutory requirements to support research that helps make our care safer, more affordable, and of the highest quality.

For these reasons, as you draft the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2027, the 259 undersigned members of the Friends of AHRQ respectfully **request:**

- **No less than \$500 million in funding for the Agency for Healthcare and Research and Quality (AHRQ).** This request reflects the demonstrated need to expand and accelerate HSR investments to inform decision-making on the health care system.
- **Provisions that the Department of Health and Human Services shall support staffing levels necessary to fulfill its statutory responsibilities including carrying out programs, projects, and activities funded in FY27.** This reflects the need for a sufficient number of trained federal workers to manage all facets of AHRQ’s statutory portfolio, including but not limited to extramural, scientific review, and grant management requirements.

AHRQ is the federal vehicle for studying and improving the United States healthcare system, and it needs the resources to meet its mission and this moment. Through this appropriation level, AHRQ will be better able to fund the “last mile” of research from cure to care.

Thank you for your support of AHRQ and health services research. For more information, please contact Josh Caplan at [Josh.Caplan@AcademyHealth.org](mailto:Josh.Caplan@AcademyHealth.org).



Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research  
AcademyHealth  
Accessia Health  
Adventist Health Policy Association  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alliance for Headache Disorders Advocacy  
America's Physician Groups  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physician Associates  
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research  
American Association for Men in Nursing  
American Association for Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine  
American Association for Physician Leadership (AAPL)  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AAPC)  
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Board of Medical Specialties  
American Board of Preventive Medicine  
American Brain Coalition  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Chiropractic Association  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics

American College of Medical Toxicology  
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Rheumatology  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)  
American Health Quality Association  
American Heart Association  
American Kidney Fund  
American Liver Foundation  
American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Neurological Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Pharmacists Association (APhA)  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association Services  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
American Statistical Association  
American Thoracic Society  
Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation  
Association for Clinical and Translational Science  
Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine



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 Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Population Centers  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist  
Avera Health  
Bell Wellness & Mental Health  
Betsy Lehman Center for Patient Safety  
Boston Medical Center Health System  
Camden Coalition  
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine  
Cedars-Sinai  
Center for Patient Safety Research and Practice, Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Center to Advance Palliative Care  
Chestnut Health Systems, Inc.  
Children's Hospital Association  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
Children's Hospital Colorado  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital  
Clinical Research Forum  
Coalition for National Trauma Research  
Colon Cancer Coalition  
Columbia University Irving Medical Center  
Comagine Health  
Community Improving Diagnosis in Medicine (CIDM)  
Community Liver Alliance  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Converging Health  
Council of Medical Specialty Societies  
Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics  
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation  
Data Foundation  
Denver Health  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Duke Health  
EBQ Consulting  
Elation Health  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Epilepsy Foundation of America  
Evidence-Based Research Network  
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered  
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research  
Gerontological Society of America  
Global Healthy Living Foundation  
Grady Hospital  
Harvard University  
Head for the Cure Foundation  
Health Care Systems Research Network  
Health Hats  
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)  
HealthPartners Institute  
Healthy Teen Network  
HealthyWomen  
Heart Failure Society of America  
Heart Rhythm Society  
HIV Medicine Association  
HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute  
Infusion Access Foundation  
Innsena  
Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), IHI  
Lucian Leape Institute  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
IPUMS  
Islamic Civic Engagement Project  
Johns Hopkins University & Medicine  
K.s.M. Foundation  
Kaiser Permanente  
Kinfolks Community  
Lachman Consulting  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Learning Health Community  
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc  
Lymphatic Education & Research Network  
March of Dimes  
MEAction North Carolina  
MEDIS, LLC  
MGH Stoeckle Center for Primary Care Innovation



MHA Keystone Center  
Mission MSA  
Mothers Against Medical Error  
NAPCRG  
National Accelerator for Discovery in Precision Health  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Association of Health Data Organizations  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Ataxia Foundation  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Headache Foundation  
National Health Council  
National Hispanic Health Foundation  
National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)  
National Infusion Center Association  
National Jewish Health  
National Kidney Foundation  
National League for Nursing  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
National Rural Health Association  
National Scleroderma Foundation  
Nationwide Children's Hospital  
NHMH - No Health without Mental Health  
Northwestern University  
Northwestern University Institute for Public Health and Medicine  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA)  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Organization for Latino Health Advocacy  
Pantheon  
Patient is Partner, LLC  
Patient Precision  
Patients for Patient Safety US  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Peggy Lillis Foundation  
Penn State Center for Health Care Policy & Research  
Penn State Health/Penn State College of Medicine

Penn State University  
Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania  
Population Association of America  
Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medical Association  
Premier Inc  
Prevent Blindness  
Primary Care Collaborative  
Primary Care Development Corporation  
Primary Care for All Americans  
Project Patient Care  
Project Sleep  
Ready for Change  
Research!America  
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Scientific Knowledge Accelerator Foundation  
Sleep Research Society  
Society for Applied Anthropology  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society for Research on Adolescence  
Society for Women's Health Research  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
Spina Bifida Association  
Stratis Health  
Superior Health Quality Alliance  
Taiwan's Artificial Intelligence Workforce and Network, Incorporated (TAIWAN Inc.)  
Texas Health Resources  
The Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science  
The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice  
The Health Collaborative  
The Larry A. Green Center for the Advancement of Primary Health Care for the Public Good  
The Leapfrog Group  
The Lundquist Institute  
The MetroHealth Medical Center  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health



The National Pancreas Foundation  
The National Partnership for Women and Families  
The Round Group  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Tulane School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine  
UC San Diego  
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health  
UCSF  
United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc.  
University of California San Diego  
University of California System  
University of California, Berkeley  
University of Colorado Anschutz

University of Michigan - Institute for Healthcare Policy & Innovation  
University of Minnesota School of Public Health  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rochester  
University of Utah Health  
US Hereditary Angioedema Association  
Vanderbilt Health  
Virginia Ambulatory Care Outcomes Research Network (ACORN)  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
wAIHA Warriors  
Washington State University  
Weill Cornell Medicine  
Zorya Foundation