October 29, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Obey
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Speaker, Leaders, Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The undersigned patient, consumer, provider, research, and employer organizations representing the Friends of AHRQ thank you for your support of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). As you know, AHRQ supports research to improve health care quality, reduce costs, advance patient safety, decrease medical errors, and broaden access to essential services—evidence that will support health care transformation and advance the goals of health reform. We respectfully urge you to finalize the FY 2011 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill without further delay, and to provide the highest possible funding level for the agency's core programs.

Evidence generated by AHRQ helps make a measurable difference in health care for all Americans. Recent investments in AHRQ have allowed the agency to continue its critical health care safety, quality, and efficiency initiatives; strengthen the infrastructure of the research field;

reignite innovation and discovery; develop the next generation of scientific pioneers; and ultimately, help transform health and health care.

The Friends of AHRQ remains dedicated to ensuring the agency's continued vital role in improving our nation's health, and we look forward to working with you to further strengthen the agency. For more information on the Friends of AHRQ, contact David Helms with the Coalition for Health Services Research at 202.292.6700 or e-mail at david.helms@academyhealth.org.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine

Alliance for Aging Research

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physician Assistants

American Association of Colleges of Nursing

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association for Dental Research

American College of Clinical Pharmacy

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

American College of Preventive Medicine

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Dental Education Association

American Heart Association

American Hospital Association

American Psychological Association

American Nurses Association

American Osteopathic Association

American Thoracic Society

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of Departments of Family Medicine

Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors

Association of Professors of Medicine

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Coalition for Health Services Research

Council of Academic Family Medicine

Marshfield Clinic

National Business Group on Health

National Health Council

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Osteoporosis Foundation

North American Primary Care Research Group

Research!America

Society of General and Internal Medicine

Society of Hospital Medicine

Society for Women’s Health Research

Society of Teachers of Family Medicine

Spina Bifida Association

The Mount Sinai Medical Center