



**American Hospital  
Association®**

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June 23, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-305 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the American Hospital Association's (AHA) nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, and our 43,000 individual members, I am writing to express our deep concern regarding the termination of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) contained in the fiscal year (FY) 2016 appropriations measure reported out by the House Appropriations Subcommittee for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education and Related Agencies on June 17, as well as the rescission of funds for the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). When the full House Appropriations Committee considers the Subcommittee's recommendations this week, we urge you to reject these defunding provisions.

AHRQ's mission seeks to improve health care by producing evidence-based research designed to make health care safer, more accessible and more efficient. Its research aims to explore which systematic interventions are likely to have the greatest impact on the safety and quality of care, the coordination of care to best meet the needs of patients, and the efficiency of the care delivery system. Over the past few years, our hospitals have seen improvements in patient care as a result of AHRQ's research. AHRQ focuses not only on how to help patients with a specific condition, but also on understanding how to make the entire health care system work more safely and effectively. We strongly urge you to oppose terminating AHRQ.

Likewise, we urge you to reject rescinding funds from the CMMI. The CMMI tests innovative payment and delivery system models that show promise for improving the quality of care in Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), while slowing the growth of health care spending. The center organizes its work into several key areas of focus, including: accountable care, bundled payments for care improvement, primary care transformation, initiatives focused on the Medicaid and CHIP populations, and initiatives focused on individuals enrolled in both Medicare and Medicaid. The remaining two areas of focus for the center are initiatives to speed the adoption of best practices and initiatives to accelerate the development and testing of new payment and service delivery models. CMMI has



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long been considered one of the most important initiatives for helping move payment for health care services from systems based on volume to ones based on value.

As the full House Appropriations Committee undertakes its consideration of the FY 2016 funding measure for the Departments of Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies, the AHA strongly urges you to continue funding for both AHRQ and the CMMI.

Sincerely,

Rick Pollack  
Executive Vice President

Cc: Committee on Appropriations Members