



July 30, 2012

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Chairman Rogers:

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies recently marked up its 2013 spending bill for the agencies under its jurisdiction. In this legislation the panel “terminated” funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) effective October 1, 2012. AACC strongly opposes this action.

AHRQ is the lead federal agency supporting research to improve health care quality, reduce costs, advance patient safety, decrease medical errors and broaden access to essential services. The agency also plays a key role in federal/private efforts to promote better medical decision making through greater use of unbiased, reliable medical evidence. To eliminate this agency would be a setback to these many valuable initiatives at a time when we need more evidence-based outcomes research, not less. AACC urges you to restore funding for AHRQ to at least FY 2012 levels.

By way of background, AACC is the principal association of professional laboratory scientists--including MDs, PhDs and medical technologists. AACC’s members develop and use chemical concepts, procedures, techniques and instrumentation in health-related investigations and work in hospitals, independent laboratories and the diagnostics industry worldwide. The AACC provides international leadership in advancing the practice and profession of clinical laboratory science and its application to health care. If you have any questions, please call me at (804) 828-0375, or Vince Stine, PhD, Director, Government Affairs, at (202) 835-8721.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G Miller", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Greg Miller, PhD
President, AACC