



Better health through
laboratory medicine.

July 1, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Capitol Building, H-232
Washington, DC 20515-6501

Dear Speaker Boehner,

The American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) strongly opposes legislative efforts to eliminate the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). This agency plays a vital role in conducting healthcare research and developing practical tools to assist healthcare professionals improve the quality of patient care. These efforts include evaluating and disseminating information regarding effective treatment options and synthesizing and educating the healthcare community about current clinical guidelines and useful quality measures. AHRQ fills a gap not addressed by other, more constituency-specific agencies.

AACC is a global scientific and medical professional organization dedicated to clinical laboratory science and its application to healthcare. AACC brings together more than 50,000 clinical laboratory professionals, physicians, research scientists, and business leaders from around the world focused on clinical chemistry, molecular diagnostics, mass spectrometry, translational medicine, lab management, and other areas of progressing laboratory science. Since 1948, AACC has worked to advance the common interests of the field, providing programs that advance scientific collaboration, knowledge, expertise, and innovation.

The House Appropriations Committee recently approved the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies fiscal year (FY) 2016 Appropriations bill, which would terminate AHRQ on October 1, 2015. AACC is concerned that this action would undermine ongoing efforts to promote evidence-based medicine. AHRQ has been in the forefront of this movement, translating scientific research into practical, useful guidance for healthcare practitioners. Since 2012, AHRQ has generated more than 170 systematic reviews evaluating the effectiveness of current or cutting edge medical practices. Quite often the findings from these studies serve as the basis for developing or revising clinical guidelines. Eliminating AHRQ may set back this invaluable public-private initiative.

AACC urges you to eliminate Section 226, which terminates AHRQ. In addition, we recommend that you fully fund this agency in FY 2016. We look forward to working with you on this most important issue. If you have any questions, please email Vince Stine, PhD, AACC Director of Government Affairs, at YSTINE@AACC.ORG.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David D. Koch".

David D. Koch, PhD, DABCC
President, AACC