



Association of
American Medical Colleges
655 K Street, N.W., Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20001-2399
T 202 828 0400
www.aamc.org

October 30, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Rogers, and Ranking Members Mikulski and Lowey:

With the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA), the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) strongly urges you to provide the largest possible 302(b) allocation to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016.


The AAMC is a not-for-profit association representing all 145 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 148,000 faculty members, 83,000 medical students, and 115,000 resident physicians.

The Labor-HHS bill funds programs and activities critical to the nation's health. Providing the largest possible allocation will allow for restoration of sequestration's harmful cuts to national priorities such as medical research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), health services research supported by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and physician training through the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education program and the Title VII health professions programs.

We also urge you to pass a Labor-HHS bill that does not contain any controversial policy riders as part of the anticipated omnibus, rather than rely again on a continuing resolution (CR) to fund critical activities these agencies support. An omnibus will offer relief from the programmatic inefficiencies inherent to CRs, which stifle progress in long-term endeavors such as medical research and health care workforce education.

The cap relief provided by the BBA will help restore order to the federal budget and appropriations process, and allow for some much-needed reinvestment in our nation's eroding domestic priorities, including medical research and physician workforce training. We urge you to build on this bipartisan process by providing the highest possible 302(b) allocation for the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee and passing a Labor-HHS bill rather than a CR.

Sincerely,



Atul Grover, M.D., Ph.D.