



**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
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November 19, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education  
Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Cole and Blunt and Ranking Members DeLauro and Murray:

With the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA), the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) strongly urges the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations Subcommittee to restore fully the harmful sequestration cuts to national priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. We encourage you to build upon the strong bipartisan work already completed for FY 2016 appropriations and enact legislation that fully funds programs and activities critical to the nation's health.

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.

As you finalize funding for FY 2016, we ask that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) receive at least \$32 billion as the next step toward renewing our nation's investment in medical research, and to retain the limit on extramural grant salaries at Level II of the Executive Pay Scale. Furthermore, we hope that the essential health services research supported by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will have its budget authority restored to \$364 million, and with the increasingly changing health care needs of this country, we also urge you to robustly support physician training through the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education program. In addition, we urge you to fully restore the proposed devastating rescissions to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund, both of which improve health care quality and efficiency.

Moreover, we have a nation that is growing and increasingly diverse; therefore, it is crucial that Title VII health professions programs, which are essential in guiding individuals to high-demand health care jobs and addressing a community's health needs, receive the higher of the House Committee- and Senate Committee-approved funding levels for each Title VII program.

We also urge you to pass a Labor-HHS bill that does not contain any ideological policy riders as part of the anticipated omnibus. An omnibus will offer relief from the programmatic inefficiencies inherent in a continuing resolution, which stifle progress in long-term endeavors such as medical research and health care workforce education.

Thank you for your long-standing support of these programs, which are vital to the improved health and well-being of the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Atul Grover". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Atul Grover, MD, PhD  
Chief Public Policy Officer