

**Statement by the Association of American Medical Colleges on  
FY 2023 Appropriations for Programs in the Department of Health and Human Services  
Submitted for the Record to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
Human Services, Education and Related Agencies – May 11, 2022**

The AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Its members comprise all 155 accredited U.S. and 16 accredited Canadian medical schools; approximately 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and the millions of individuals employed across academic medicine, including more than 191,000 full-time faculty members, 95,000 medical students, 149,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences. In 2022, the Association of Academic Health Centers and the Association of Academic Health Centers International merged into the AAMC, broadening the AAMC's U.S. membership and expanding its reach to international academic health centers.

The COVID-19 pandemic is only one illustration of how sustained support for the research, education, and patient care missions of medical schools and teaching hospitals, with a strong commitment to community collaborations, is essential to ensure a resilient health care infrastructure prepared to respond to both novel and existing threats. For FY 2023, the AAMC recommends the following for federal priorities essential in assisting medical schools and teaching hospitals to fulfill their missions that benefit patients, communities and the nation: at least \$49.048 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in addition to any funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H); \$500 million for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); \$1.51 billion for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII health professions and Title VIII nursing workforce development programs, and \$718.8 million for the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program; and at least \$11 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The AAMC appreciates the Subcommittee's longstanding, bipartisan efforts to strengthen these programs. To enable the necessary support for the broad range of critical federal priorities, the AAMC urges Congress to approve a funding allocation for the Labor-HHS subcommittee that enables full investment in the priorities outlined below. To this end, the AAMC joined nearly 400 organizations representing the diversity of Labor-HHS stakeholders [in a May 10 letter](#) reiterating the need for a robust funding allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee. The AAMC also supports the president's proposal to supplement the annual HHS investments with mandatory funding to support ongoing pandemic preparedness.

**National Institutes of Health.** Congress's longstanding bipartisan support for medical research has contributed greatly to improving the health and well-being of all, highlighted, for example, by the central role medical research has played in combatting COVID-19. As illustrated over the last two years, the foundation of scientific knowledge built through NIH-funded research drives medical innovation that improves health through new and better diagnostics, improved prevention strategies, and more effective treatments. Over half of the life-saving research supported by the NIH takes place at [medical schools and teaching hospitals](#), where scientists, clinicians, fellows, residents, medical students, and trainees work together to improve the lives of

Americans through research. This partnership is a unique and highly productive relationship that lays the foundation for improved health and quality of life and strengthens the nation's long-term economy.

The AAMC thanks Congress for a seventh straight year of bipartisan support that resulted in the inclusion of \$45 billion for medical research conducted and supported by the NIH in the FY 2022 omnibus spending bill. Additionally, the AAMC thanks the Subcommittee for recognizing the importance of retaining the salary cap at Executive Level II of the federal pay scale in FY 2022.

In FY 2023, the AAMC joins nearly 400 partners in supporting the [Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research recommendation](#) that Congress provide at least \$49.048 billion in program level funding for the NIH, which would represent an increase of \$4.1 billion over the comparable FY 2022 funding level (an increase of \$3.5 billion or 7.9% in the NIH appropriation plus funding from the 21st Century Cures Act for specific initiatives). **Importantly, the Ad Hoc Group strongly urges lawmakers to ensure that any additional funding the Subcommittee opts to provide for ARPA-H supplement our \$49 billion recommendation for NIH's base budget, rather than supplant the essential foundational investment in the NIH.** In addition, the coalition supports the president's proposal to supplement NIH's budget with additional mandatory funding to speed the pace of pandemic response and readiness.

Securing a reliable, robust budget trajectory is key in positioning the agency – and the patients who rely on the research it funds – to capitalize on the full range of research in the biomedical, behavioral, social, and population-based sciences. We must continue to strengthen our nation's research capacity, solidify our global leadership in medical research, ensure a research workforce that reflects the racial, gender, and geographic diversity of our citizenry, and inspire a passion for science in current and future generations of researchers.

In addition to our strong support for a robust increase in NIH's base funding, we look forward to working with lawmakers and the administration to fulfill the goals of ARPA-H as it gets underway. The nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals are hubs of innovation in research and care delivery, and the AAMC looks forward to engaging with lawmakers and the administration on opportunities to advance a bold and productive medical research agenda in harnessing our shared commitment to innovation and scientific discovery.

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.** Complementing the medical research supported by NIH, AHRQ sponsors health services research designed to improve the quality of health care, decrease health care costs, and provide access to essential health care services by translating research into measurable improvements in the health care system. The AAMC joins the [Friends of AHRQ](#) in recommending at least \$500 million in funding for AHRQ in FY 2023.

**Health Professions Funding.** The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII and Title VIII programs have helped the country combat COVID-19, despite the challenges the pandemic posed for grantees. Many grantees pivoted their curricula to educate our health workforce during this public health challenge. There were unexpected costs to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for in-person clinical training or switching to a virtual learning experience.

Simultaneously, the pandemic underscored the need to increase and continuously reshape our health workforce. These programs have proven successful in recruiting, training, and supporting

public health practitioners, nurses, geriatricians, mental health providers, and other frontline health care workers critical to addressing COVID-19. Additionally, HRSA has tasked grantees with utilizing innovative models of care, such as training providers in telehealth, to improve patients' access to care during the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic pulled back the curtain on the pervasive health inequities facing disadvantaged and underserved communities, and gaps in care for our most vulnerable patients, including an aging population that requires more health care services. The HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs educate current and future providers to serve these ever-growing needs, while preparing providers for the health care demands of tomorrow. A diverse health care workforce improves access to care, patient satisfaction, and health professionals' learning environments. Studies show that HRSA Title VII and Title VIII programs increase the number of underrepresented students enrolled in health professions schools, heighten awareness of factors contributing to health inequities, and attract health professionals who are more likely to treat underserved patients.

Further, the HRSA health professions and nursing workforce programs are structured to advance new delivery systems and models of care, such as those promoting interprofessional teams and integrating mental health services with primary care. Whether developing a new curriculum to address emerging and ongoing public health crises, such as substance use disorders, or collaborating with community leaders in educating providers to deliver culturally competent care, the Title VII and Title VIII programs help ensure our health workforce is at the forefront of meeting all patients' health needs. The AAMC joins the [Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition \(HPNEC\)](#) in recommending \$1.51 billion for these critical workforce programs in FY 2023. Additionally, the AAMC supports the president's proposal for at least \$50 million to fund the recently enacted Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act (P.L. 111-105). Funding from the American Rescue Plan allowed HRSA to support several programs to prevent burnout in the health care workforce and promote clinician well-being, but HRSA received far more high-quality applications than resources allowed the agency to support.

In addition to Title VII and Title VIII, HRSA's Bureau of Health Workforce also supports \$718.8 million in FY 2023 for the CHGME program, which provides critical federal graduate medical education support for children's hospitals to train the future primary care and specialty care workforce for our nation's children. We also encourage Congress to provide robust funding to HRSA's Rural Residency Programs to expand training opportunities in rural areas through funding to develop new rural residency programs or separately accredited rural training track programs.

The AAMC encourages Congress to provide long-term sustained funding for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) through its mandatory and discretionary mechanisms. We were appreciative of the \$800 million in supplemental funding for the NHSC in the American Rescue Plan (H.R. 117-2), and we support an appropriation for the NHSC that would fulfill the needs for current Health Professions Shortage Areas.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.** [The AAMC joins the CDC Coalition](#) in a recommendation of at least \$11 billion for the CDC in FY 2023. In addition to ensuring a strong public health infrastructure and protecting Americans from public health threats and emergencies, CDC programs are crucial to reducing health care costs and improving health.

Within that total, the [AAMC joins nearly 300 national, state, and local medical, public health, and research organizations](#) in supporting the president's proposed \$35 million to increase funding for firearm safety research supported by CDC. The AAMC also supports the administration's proposal to double firearm morbidity and mortality prevention research funding at NIH to \$25 million in FY 2023 and to provide \$250 million to CDC for a new community violence intervention initiative.

Also within the CDC total, the AAMC supports increased or new funding for:

- [Data Modernization Initiative \(DMI\)](#): \$250 million
- Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analysis (CFA): \$50 million
- [Climate and Health Program](#): \$110 million
- Advanced Molecular Detection (AMD) program: \$175 million

**Additional Programs.** The AAMC also supports at least \$474 million for the Hospital Preparedness Program within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), in addition to \$40 million to continue the regional preparedness programs created to address emerging and other special pathogens, including funding for regional treatment centers, frontline providers, and the National Emerging Pathogen Training and Education Center (NETEC).

Once again, the AAMC appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement for the record and looks forward to working with the subcommittee as it prepares its FY 2023 spending bill.