

**Statement by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) on  
FY 2023 Appropriations for Programs in the Department of Health and Human Services Submitted for the  
Record to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and  
Related Agencies – May 26, 2022**

The AAMC is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. 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).

AAMC’s members comprise all 155 accredited U.S. medical schools; approximately 400 teaching hospitals and health systems; 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. Learn more at [aamc.org](https://www.aamc.org).

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 has joined hundreds of organizations on two different letters in a May 10 letter, and over 100 research and public health organizations in a May 16 letter, reiterating the need for a robust funding allocation for the Labor-HHS 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, and 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 FY 2022. The foundation of 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 unique and highly productive relationship lays the foundation for improved health and quality of life and strengthens the nation's long-term economy. 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 supplements our \$49 billion recommendation for NIH's base budget, rather than supplants the essential foundational investment in the NIH.**

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 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 to advance a bold and productive medical research agenda in harnessing our shared commitment to innovation and 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 pandemic's challenges for grantees. Simultaneously, the pandemic underscored the need to increase and reshape our health workforce. These programs have proven successful in recruiting, training, and supporting public health practitioners, nurses, geriatricians, mental health providers, and other health care workers critical to addressing COVID-19. Additionally, HRSA tasked grantees with utilizing innovative models of care, such as telehealth, to improve access to care.

The COVID-19 pandemic pulled back the curtain on the pervasive health inequities facing disadvantaged and underserved communities, and gaps in care for historically marginalized 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. The HRSA health professions and nursing workforce programs provide training that advances new delivery systems and models of care, such as promoting interprofessional teams and integrating mental health services with primary care.

The AAMC joins the Health Professions and Nursing Education Coalition (HPNEC) in recommending \$1.51 billion for these critical workforce programs in FY 2023. The AAMC also supports the president's proposal for at least \$50 million to fund the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act (P.L. 111-105). Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA, P.L. 117-2) 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, the AAMC also supports \$718.8 million in FY 2023 for the CHGME program, which provides federal graduate medical education support for children's hospitals to train the future primary care and specialty care pediatric workforce. We also encourage Congress to provide robust funding to HRSA's Rural Residency Programs to expand training opportunities in rural areas.

The AAMC encourages Congress to provide long-term sustained mandatory and discretionary funding for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). We appreciated the \$800 million in supplemental funding for the NHSC in the ARP and support an appropriation for the NHSC that fulfills 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 organizations AAMC supports the president's proposed \$35 million for CDC-supported firearm safety research. 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); and 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 testimony and looks forward to working with the subcommittee as it prepares its FY 2023 spending bill.