

July 23, 2012

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 LHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

On behalf of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), our 30,000 members and the more than 136 million patients we treat every year, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the FY 2013 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill the subcommittee marked-up on July 18. We look forward to working with you and the members of your committee to ensure the final bill provides appropriate resources to the vital agencies and programs that support emergency medicine, such as the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

We appreciate the fiscal challenges facing our country during this difficult period. However, key programs and services, such as EMS for Children, Poison Control Centers, Traumatic Brain Injury, Trauma/EMS, Injury Prevention and Control, Community Access to AEDs, Rural Outreach Grants and Telehealth provide vital resources to supplement the work we do on a daily basis to save American lives.

We are very concerned about the proposed levels of funding for essential programs as compared to the FY 2012 enacted levels. Specifically, the elimination of funding for AHRQ, the 10 percent cut in funding for CDC, the 9 percent cut in funding for SAMHSA and the prohibition on using money to fund Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) initiatives will cause great harm to ongoing research and quality measure development. At this critical juncture, when the nation's policymakers are devoted to modifying physician reimbursement to stress the quality over quantity of services, we believe it would be a dire mistake not to provide appropriate, available funding for these valuable enterprises.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and we look forward to working with you to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,



David C. Seaberg, MD, CPE, FACEP
President

CC: Members of the House Appropriations Committee

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