



August 3, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality — Grant Cancellations**

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for taking action to rein in the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Since 1999, millions of taxpayer dollars have been funneled into AHRQ to produce clinical protocols, government-endorsed quality measures, and burdensome reporting tools that interfere with patient care (The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) essentially doubled its budget). The intrusion of government into each patient encounter consumes clinician time and attention best used for careful listening, proper diagnosis, and treatment.

Hospitals, corporate health plans, electronic health record companies, and federal agencies often insert AHRQ protocols and metrics into their systems, effectively turning government recommendations into clinical mandates that limit and control physicians in the exam room.

AHRQ previously operated as the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR). During the Clinton administration, the agency developed controversial clinical practice guidelines similar to the centralized guideline-and-measurement structure associated with President Bill Clinton's failed health care reform plan. Republican members of Congress, angered by the agency's advocacy for the Clinton plan and the agency's attempt to limit access to care through federal treatment protocols, put it on a "hit list" for elimination in 1995.¹ Unfortunately, the agency was saved, renamed AHRQ in 1999, and allowed to rebuild its influence over private medical decisions through grantmaking.

Your administration is rightly addressing what Congress failed to do in 1995. Thank you for doing everything within your executive authority to restrain AHRQ. We respectfully request that you call on Congress to shut down AHRQ by **repealing 42 U.S. Code § 299**. We also ask you to empower patients and doctors by restoring access to affordable, direct-pay medical indemnity insurance.

Respectfully,

Twila Brase, RN, PHN
President and Co-founder

¹ "Are Appropriators Actually Authorizers in Sheep's Clothing?" M. Boyce Ginieczki, March 31, 2010:
<https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/6da5767f-2ff9-4331-b1ee-283c9df17b2d/content>