

AcademyHealth is disappointed with the dramatic and, we believe, unacceptable reductions to health research, data and evidence reflected in the President's Annual Budget request, released earlier today.

At a time when American health care continues to underperform relative to its promise, the Administration's proposed reorganization and budget reductions -- including proposals to cut spending for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) by \$81.3 million and transfer its important work to a new agency at the National Institutes of Health -- is short-sighted and counter-productive.

The research, resources, tools, and datasets produced by AHRQ and other federal health and health research agencies targeted in the budget provide a critical public service, improving the safety and quality of health care Americans receive, and helping us better understand how to make our health care system more effective and efficient.

As the professional society for health services and policy research, AcademyHealth is committed to ensuring that federal funding for health services research -- the research that determines how to deliver care and cures most effectively, with the highest level of quality, and in the most efficient way -- is supported and sustained.

The President's budget request is an important, albeit disappointing, signal of the Administration's priorities. AcademyHealth is deeply concerned to see proposed cuts at every major agency supporting health and health care research. The proposal's \$3 billion reduction in research at the National Institutes of Health undermine our ability to develop and deploy cutting edge treatments for disease, while additional cuts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention impact our ability to track and respond to emerging threats.

Evidence matters, and health services research provides the best possible insights into solving the complex problems facing our \$3.6 trillion health care industry. AcademyHealth urges Congress to reject these proposals, and to work to ensure steady and sustainable funding for the critical evidence we need to improve health and health care.