



Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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January 5, 2016

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
706 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal,

Thank you for your support of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). We especially appreciate your November 12 letter—cosigned by Senators Brown, Franken, Markey, and Warren—to the Appropriations Committee leadership asking they preserve and support FY16 AHRQ funding. We're pleased and grateful neither the Senate cut of 35% or the House cut of 100% were realized in the final FY16 spending bill.

As you know, research is a critically important tool in addressing the complex challenges of our health system, which include controlling cost growth, improving the quality of care delivered, and attaining the best outcomes for the greatest number of people. AHRQ is the leading governmental agency in this research, providing state-of-the-science and evidence-based recommendations for major health care issues to all Americans. The mission and accomplishments of AHRQ are distinctive in producing evidence to achieve higher quality healthcare that is safer and more accessible, equitable, and affordable.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in support of the FY17 AHRQ budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jessica Utts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jessica" and the last name "Utts" clearly legible.

Jessica Utts
President, American Statistical Association

CC: Senators Sherrod Brown, Al Franken, Edward Markey, Elizabeth Warren