



U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
Washington, DC 20515-6065

August 5, 2026

The Honorable Russell Vought, Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Roger D. Klein, Director
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Director Vought and Director Klein,

I am writing with concern regarding the Administration's decision to cancel existing grants and withhold new grant funding through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). AHRQ supports research that improves health care quality, efficiency, access, and patient outcomes. Its grants also create skilled jobs, train researchers, and help turn medical discoveries into better care. This investment is especially important in Philadelphia, where the life sciences sector employs nearly 55,000 people, including almost 19,000 in research and development.¹ Cutting AHRQ funding threatens critical research, regional economic growth, and America's leadership in administering new treatments and cures.

In fiscal years 2025 and 2026, Congress provided AHRQ with two-year appropriations and total program levels of \$496 million² and \$479 million,³ respectively. However, the Administration illegally disregarded this congressionally enacted spending decision. The Administration has reduced AHRQ staff by approximately 80 percent.⁴ The agency issued only seven new awards in fiscal year 2025 and has issued no new awards in fiscal year 2026.⁵ This is a stunning decline from the 393 new awards issued in fiscal year 2024.⁶ Since July, the agency has also terminated at least 150 active grants, totaling \$229 million.⁷

I am especially concerned about the cancellation of grants at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania. Because of your actions, they have been forced to shut down programs to train researchers, improve translation services for hospitalized patients, and expand access to hormone therapy for

¹ CBRE, Philadelphia Market Global Life Sciences Atlas (April 11, 2025), <https://www.cbre.com/insights/local-response/global-life-sciences-atlas-market-profiles-philadelphia>.

² Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, P.L. 119-4, 139 Stat. 9; Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, P.L. 118-47, 138 Stat. 460, 661.

³ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, P.L. 119-75, 140 Stat. 173, 272.

⁴ AcademyHealth, AHRQ Is Being Dismantled and the Consequences Will Reach Every Part of American Health Care (July 20, 2026), <https://ahsituationreport.substack.com/p/ahrq-is-being-dismantled-and-the>.

⁵ Noam Ross, Termination of AHRQ grants is the latest assault on health equity and the rule of law, GRANT WITNESS (July 22, 2026), https://grant-witness.us/posts/2026-07-22_ahrq-terminations/.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Katrina Miller, Health Care Agency Discontinues Dozens of Active Research Awards, NEW YORK TIMES (July 23, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/07/23/science/health-research-funding-ahrq.html>.

menopausal women.⁸ These cancellations jeopardize jobs, interrupt promising research, weaken Philadelphia's economy, and make it harder to improve patient care.

Yet the Administration has generally offered only the vague assertion that these grants are not "in the best interest of the Federal Government."⁹ These investments that support jobs, advance medical innovation, and strengthen America's global competitiveness are plainly in the national interest.

The Constitution grants the President no unilateral authority to withhold funds from obligation. Instead, Congress has vested the President with strictly circumscribed authority to impound or withhold budget authority only in limited circumstances as expressly provided in the Impoundment Control Act. The executive branch may withhold amounts from obligation only if the President transmits a special message to Congress that includes the amount of budget authority proposed for withholding and the reason for the proposal.¹⁰

To address this impoundment and the harms from cancelling existing grants, I demand that you provide written responses to the questions below no later than September 1, 2026.

1. Does the Administration commit to fully spending congressionally appropriated funding for the AHRQ? If so, what steps are the Administration taking to ensure that funds are spent by the end of the period of availability? If not, what authority is the Administration claiming to not spend the congressionally appropriated money?
2. The Administration has admitted¹¹ to cancelling other grants solely based on the political identity of the grant recipient's state. Were any of the AHRQ grants cancelled based on the political identity of the grant recipient's state, city, or congressional district?
3. A district court recently found in New Jersey v. OMB¹² that the government cannot terminate grants based on their inability to effectuate program goals and agency priorities identified after the award was made.
 - Were any of the AHRQ grants cancelled on the basis of new program goals or agency priorities created by the Trump Administration?
 - Provide a list of every AHRQ grant that the Administration chose to cancel or not renew.
 - For each of the grants AHRQ has cancelled, list the specific program goal or agency priority justification for cancelling the grant. Provide specific reasons and do not use any generic description, such as not in the best interest of the Federal Government.
 - Does the Administration commit to not using any final version of a rule under the recently proposed Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance¹³ to cancel AHRQ grants?

⁸ Kayla Yup, Penn and CHOP researchers lost millions in federal funding for healthcare research last week, forcing programs to close, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER (July 26, 2026), <https://www.inquirer.com/health/chop-upenn-research-programs-close-federal-funding-cuts-ahrq-20260722.html>.

⁹ Id.

¹⁰ 2 U.S.C. §§ 683–684.

¹¹ Thakur v. Trump, No. 3:25-cv-04737-RL (N.D. Cal.), Document 211-6, Department of Energy Stipulation, Ex. F.

¹² No. 1:25-cv-11816-IT (D. Mass. July 17, 2026).

¹³ 91 Fed. Reg. 32,198 (May 29, 2026).

Pursuant to House Rule X, the House Budget Committee has jurisdiction over the budget process, including the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. The documents and materials requested will inform its review of the fiscal impact of the Administration's health care policies and assist the Committee in making the legislative judgments required as part of the federal budget process. If you have any questions about this, please contact House Budget Committee, Democratic staff. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brendan F. Boyle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brendan" and last name "Boyle" clearly distinguishable.

Brendan F. Boyle
Ranking Member
House Budget Committee