

**Letter Sent to Senate and House Appropriations-Labor, HHS and Education
Subcommittees**

May 10, 2000

The Honorable Henry Bonilla

U.S. House of Representatives

1427 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bonilla:

I am writing on behalf of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP-ASIM), the largest medical specialty society in the country representing over 115,000 physicians of internal medicine and medical students. As the Labor-HHS-Ed Subcommittee decides funding levels for fiscal year 2001, the College urges you to appropriate sufficient funds for important health programs.

ACP-ASIM specifically urges you to support a budget allocation of \$300 million for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), including \$30 million to establish a National Center for Patient Safety. The College believes that this amount is necessary for AHRQ to carry out its congressional mandate to improve health care quality, including reducing medical errors and advancing health outcomes and prevention information. This is \$50 million more than the president's budget proposal of \$250 million for AHRQ, including \$10 million more than the presidents' request of \$20 million to create a Center for Patient Safety.

The College also urges you to support an appropriation of \$335 million for the health professions and nursing education programs authorized under Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service. The Administration's budget request of \$218 million would result in the closing of programs that train students and health professionals who practice in underserved areas. Many individuals rely on the primary and preventive health services provided by these programs as their only means of medical care.

Thank you for considering our concerns and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues as the appropriations bills move forward this session in Congress.

Sincerely,

Sandra Adamson Fryhofer, MD, FACP
President