

# Action



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Memorandum #13-01

Date: February 13, 2013

To: Council of Deans  
Council of Teaching Hospitals and Health Systems  
Council of Academic Societies  
Organization of Student Representatives  
Organization of Resident Representatives

From: Darrell G. Kirch, M.D., President and CEO

Subject: **Immediate Action Requested to Contact Congress on Sequestration**

Unless Congress and the White House act, on March 1, the Budget Control Act mandated sequestration will take effect, causing automatic across-the-board cuts to programs vital to medical schools and teaching hospitals and the patients for whom they care. Non-defense discretionary spending, which includes the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Title VII health professions programs will be cut by an estimated 5.1 percent, according to the Senate Budget Committee. Medicare provider payments, including direct graduate medical education and indirect medical education payments, will be cut by 2 percent.

Both the House and Senate will be back in their home districts and states during the week of February 18, which is an excellent time to communicate the impact of sequestration on the health of their constituents.

It is imperative that you contact your Representatives and Senators to explain the impact of these cuts on your programs and by extension, on the health of the America people. The following resources may be helpful as you prepare to communicate with your elected officials:

- Key points on the impact of sequestration on medical research, GME, and health professions training  
<https://www.aamc.org/download/328102/data/sequestrationtalkingpoints.pdf>;
- A Research Means Hope ad, co-branded with leading patient organizations, that will appear in inside-the-Beltway publications February 12-14  
<https://www.aamc.org/download/328026/data/researchmeanshopesequestrationad.pdf>;
- An op-ed on the impact of sequestration on patients, that appears today in *The Hill's Congress Blog* that may be used as an example for preparing an op-ed to run in local papers; <http://www.thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/282793-how-sequestration-will-hurt-patients>
- *Second Opinion* podcasts, an occasional series on policy issues important to medical schools and teaching hospitals, featuring AAMC Chief Public Policy Officer Atul Grover, M.D., Ph.D.  
<https://www.aamc.org/advocacy/secondopinion/323430/podcasts.html>; and

- A customizable e-mail message to Congress expressing concern about the implications of the pending sequester on NIH funding and the nation's health. With just a few clicks of the mouse, individuals can quickly send a pre-drafted message to their Members of Congress describing the consequences of sequestration on medical research. Institutions may wish to share this link <http://capwiz.com/aamc/home/> with their faculty, students, and alumni.

For additional information, contact David Moore (NIH), senior director, Government Relations, 202-828-0559 or [dbmoore@aamc.org](mailto:dbmoore@aamc.org); Tannaz Rasouli (health professions), director, Government Relations, 202-822-0057 or [trasouli@aamc.org](mailto:trasouli@aamc.org); Len Marquez (GME), director, Government Relations, 202-862-6281 or [lmarquez@aamc.org](mailto:lmarquez@aamc.org); or Christiane Mitchell (GME, Medicare), director, Federal Affairs, 202-828-0461 or [cmitchell@aamc.org](mailto:cmitchell@aamc.org).

cc: Government Relations Representatives (GRR)  
Group on Institutional Advancement (GIA) Public Affairs Representatives  
Group on Research Advancement and Development (GRAND)  
Graduate Research, Education, and Training (GREAT)  
Group on Resident Affairs (GRA)