

September 8, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

We, the undersigned organizations, representing health care providers, public health leaders, medical researchers, and the patients that benefit from their work, urge you to oppose S. 1347, the “Conference Accountability Act of 2014,” which was reported out of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on July 30, 2014. We also strongly urge you to resist placing it on the Senate calendar for floor consideration.

This legislation would place harmful restrictions on medical and scientific meetings that would threaten scientific progress and increase federal expenditures on unnecessary administrative and reporting requirements. Federal support for, and participation in, scientific meetings has dramatically decreased over the last several years due to federal budget constraints and other policies enacted by the White House Office of Management and Budget. The proposed additional restrictions would further handicap research, implementation and collaborative efforts necessary to address serious public health threats and advance discovery of life saving treatments and diagnostics. National and international meetings play a critical role in the scientific process and in the implementation of scientific advances by allowing for analytical discussion and interaction between government experts and other physicians and scientists in addition to supporting the education and mentoring of junior researchers and physicians—which is severely limited by video conferences and other virtual meeting alternatives.

Furthermore, the prohibitions and requirements proposed in S. 1347 threaten our nation’s leadership and investment in science and research globally. We have witnessed the evolution of medical and scientific innovation globally through the information sharing, mentoring, and professional collaboration that occurs between U.S. scientists and their colleagues from around the world at these meetings.

We share the goal of promoting accountability and transparency in government spending and stand ready to assist in this effort without diminishing the federal investment in medical research and our ability to effectively facilitate and share new knowledge leading to lifesaving vaccines, diagnostics and treatments—the ultimate goals of our investments. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Kimberly Miller at the HIV Medicine Association. She can be reached at either [kmiller@hivma.org](mailto:kmiller@hivma.org) or (703) 740-4957.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry  
Academy of Radiology Research

AcademyHealth  
Acoustical Society of America

AIDS Alabama  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
AIDS Policy Project  
Alliance for Aging Research  
Alpha-1 Foundation  
American Academy of HIV Medicine  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Periodontology  
American Aging Association  
American Association for Dental Research  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
American Brain Coalition  
American College of Chest Physician  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Preventive Medicine  
American College of Prosthodontists  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
American Neurological Association  
American Physiological Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Investigative Pathology  
American Society for Microbiology  
American Society for Nutrition  
American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Dermatopathology  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Plant Biologists  
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

American Sociological Association  
American Statistical Association  
American Thoracic Society  
Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
Association for Clinical and Translational Science  
Association for Molecular Pathology  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Geographers  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Independent Research Institutes  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
AVAC:Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention  
Biophysical Society  
Campaign for Public Health Foundaiton  
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA)  
Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH)  
COPD Foundation  
Cure Alzheimer's Fund  
CurePSP - Foundation for PSP | CBD & Related Brain Diseases  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
Foundation for Integrative AIDS Rsearch (FIAR)  
Friends of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (FNIDCR)  
Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research  
GBS/CIDP Foundation International  
Genetics Society of America  
Global Health Council  
Health GAP (Global Access Project)  
Hepatitis Education Project  
HIV Medicine Association  
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance  
Hosted Payload Alliance  
Housing Works, Inc.  
Human Factors and Ergonomics Society  
IDSA Center for Global Health Policy  
IEEE-USA  
Infectious Diseases Society of America

Institute of Nuclear Materials Management  
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative  
International Essential Tremor Foundation  
International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies  
Lifelong  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
M-CM Network  
MdDS Balance Disorder Foundation  
NAPHSIS-National Association for Public Health  
Statistics and Information Systems  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Association of County and City Health  
Officials  
National Association of State Head Injury  
Administrators  
National Disease Research Interchange  
National Minority AIDS Council  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society  
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy  
Parkinson's Action Network

Population Association of America/Association of  
Population Centers  
Population Association of America/Association of  
Population Centers  
Project Inform  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Research!America  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of  
America  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine  
Society for Women's Health Research  
The American Association of Immunologists  
The American Society for Cell Biology  
The Clinical Research Forum  
The Coalition for the Life Sciences  
The Marfan Foundation  
The Optical Society  
The Sturge-Weber Foundation  
Timothy O'Connor RN, MSN, PMC, PhD(c), LNHA  
Treatment Action Group