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- The diversion of money from AHRQ damages the research community as a whole. All research is interconnected. AHRQ ensures that the discoveries made by NIH-funded researchers that turn into FDA-approved products are delivered and being used in the most effective and efficient ways possible. This type of research is critical for the NIH, CDC and FDA to improve on these products and ensure that they are available to all who need them. Furthermore, the goal of the 21st Century Qures initiative is to improve not only the path from discovery through development and delivery, but also to improve how patient feedback affects research and discovery.¹ The work of AHRQ is critical for this second part. It is not dear how the 21st Century Qures initiative benefits from potentially reducing the effectiveness of AHRQ.
 (2) On p.219, line 1, the definition of
- (2) On p.219, line 1, the definition of definition of an Early Stage Investigator. Introducing a new class of investigator on top of a very similar class will cause confusion in the community and lead to inefficiencies in grant awarding and data analysis.
- (3) manner indicated here. (1) The NIH policy of ensuring Early Stage Investigators have a fair shot at receiving grant money has been largely successful grant applications from ESs have nearly the same chance of success as established investigators.² (2) It is generally assumed that Early Stage Investigators have a difficult time securing their second NIH grant. If helping scientists secure their second grant is the point of this section, the legislation should be rewritten to clearly address this.

<u>Our recommendation</u>: The following section, Sec. 2262, requires the NIH to report on aging trends in the biomedical workforce. This report should be completed before any legislative attempts are made at funding specific constituencies within the workforce. Doing so may only introduce more problems. Furthermore, we feel the goals and funding mechanism of this section are misguided. As such, we recommend Sec. 2261 be removed from the final legislation. If this section remains, then we recommend:

(1) If the goal of turning off the tap is to give the NIH more money, we recommend instead authorizing and appropriating mone afrs12(t)-3(o)3(e)-3(f)5(IH)51(.)]THETBT1 0 0 1 435599 413.25 Tm[r)]THET EMO



Our concern: This section directs all NIH institutes and centers

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Our concern: This section seeks to improve accountability at the NIH. However, the provisions in this section would not achieve this and would only add to bureaucratic processes that slow discovery research. Specifically,



<u>Our concern</u>: This section authorizes more funding for the BRAIN initiative. The scientific research enterprise works at its best when undirected, investigator-initiated research is fully funded. Diverting resources to specified projects, such as the BRAIN initiative, detracts from the vibrance and productivity of the enterprise. We prefer a system where scientists compete for grants that are awarded based on exemplary, peer-reviewed grant applications.

Our recommendation: Remove Sec. 4008.