Template letter sequestration

Dear Member of Congress:

The (insert institution) is deeply concerned about the impact that sequestration will have on programs that are vital to the health of the American people, including medical research supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Medicare Parts A and B payments.

(Insert description of institution)

For NIH, sequestration will result in a $1.5 billion cut in the first year alone. For our institution, that means a reduction of $XX million. This comes on top of the fact that NIH has lost one-fifth of its purchasing power over the past decade. If we continue to undercut our national investment in medical research, we not only will deny hope to millions of patients and their families, but we also will jeopardize our standing as the world’s leader in medical research, weakening our ability to compete in the global innovation-based economy of the 21st century. It is estimated that the cut in NIH funding will result in the loss of more than 20,000 jobs nationwide. At our institution, we project that we may have to cut as many as XX jobs.

Sequestration also threatens Medicare hospital and physician payments at a time when providers already face a broad range of reimbursement cuts in the coming year, and Medicare fails to cover the cost of care. The 2 percent sequester of Medicare will cut provider payments by $10.7 billion, including more than $1.3 billion in cuts at teaching hospitals and medical schools that are members of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), which represents all 141 accredited U.S. medical schools and nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems nationwide. These cuts could result in the loss of nearly 34,000 jobs at AAMC-member institutions, including those workers directly employed by the health care sector, as well as other jobs supported by the purchases of health care organizations and their employees. At our institution, the loss of Medicare funds will mean that we may need to eliminate XX jobs.

We also are concerned that, despite the 2 percent limitation on Medicare cuts for “individual payments for services furnished” under Parts A and B, sequestration will have a significant impact on teaching hospitals and physicians ability to care for all patients and train the next generation of physicians.

If we are to address the health challenges of an aging and increasingly diverse population, and remain a vibrant force in the global economy, America needs more investment in medical research and the health care workforce, not less. We urge you to work together with the Obama administration on a solution that reverses the pernicious effects of sequestration—and the devastating impact of continued cuts—on programs that benefit all Americans.