



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
2450 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-1127
T 202 828 0400 F 202 828 1125
www.aamc.org

July 2, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chair, Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus:

The Council of Deans and the Council of Teaching Hospitals—130 non-federal medical schools and nearly 300 non-federal teaching hospitals and health systems represented by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)—stand ready to work with you to reform our health care system, and ensure that all Americans can obtain the care they need, when they need it.

We are pleased that the Obama Administration and Congress recognize that as we strive to improve the health care delivery system, we must simultaneously invest in the growth of the physician workforce.

Recent discussions surrounding health care reform have accurately focused on shortages of primary care physicians as a major obstacle to achieving improvements to our current system. **Our medical schools are increasing enrollment but the number of physicians—in many specialties—will not meet the needs of our communities unless teaching hospitals are able to expand graduate medical education (GME) training.**

The number of general surgeons in the United States has decreased by 26 percent since 1981; numerous specialties that primarily serve the elderly, such as cardiology, oncology, and geriatrics have projected significant shortages in the coming decade, which if unaddressed, will lead to decreased access and potentially higher costs. The nation also has shortages of pediatric subspecialists. **These shortages will be particularly severe in rural communities and further disadvantage underserved Americans unless we maintain and expand our investment in medical education and training.**

Creating more residency training slots supported, in part, by Medicare is essential to increase the physician supply. We support the recently introduced “Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2009” (S.973/H.R.2251) that will strengthen our health care infrastructure by expanding the number of Medicare-supported physician training positions while providing preferences for programs that train primary care physicians and general surgeons.

We are committed to making comprehensive health care reform a reality, and look forward to working with you to achieve this important national goal.

Sincerely,

Alabama

Robert R. Rich, M.D.
Dean and Senior Vice President for
Medicine
University of Alabama School of Medicine

Samuel J. Strada, Ph.D.
Dean
University of South Alabama, College of
Medicine

William Ferniany, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
UAB Health System
Birmingham, Alabama

Michael R. Waldrum, M.D., M.S., M.B.A.
Chief Executive Officer
UAB Hospital and UAB Highlands
Birmingham, Alabama

Arizona

Steve Goldschmid, M.D.
Interim Dean and Professor of Medicine
University of Arizona College of Medicine

Robert L. Meyer
President and Chief Executive Officer
Phoenix Children's Hospital
Phoenix, Arizona

Arkansas

Debra H. Fiser, M.D.
Dean
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
College of Medicine

California

H. Roger Hadley, M.D.
Dean and Executive Vice President of
Medical Affairs
Loma Linda University School of Medicine

Philip A. Pizzo, M.D.
Dean and Professor of Pediatrics and
Microbiology/Immunology
Stanford University School of Medicine

Ralph V. Clayman, M.D.
Interim Dean
Professor, Department of Urology
University of California, Irvine, School of
Medicine

Samuel Hawgood, M.D.
Interim Dean
University of California, San Francisco,
School of Medicine

Amir Rubin
Chief Operation Officer
UCLA Medical Center
Los Angeles, California

Maureen Zehnter
Interim Director
University of California, Irvine, Medical
Center
Orange, California

Ann Rice
Chief Executive Officer
University of California, Davis, Health
System
Sacramento, California

Richard J. Liekweg
Chief Executive Officer
University of California, San Diego,
Medical Center
San Diego, California

Mark R. Laret
Chief Executive Officer
UCSF Medical Center
San Francisco, California

Colorado

Richard D. Krugman, M.D.
Dean
University of Colorado Denver School of
Medicine

Bruce Schroffel
President and Chief Executive Officer
University of Colorado Hospital
Aurora, Colorado

Connecticut

Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.
Vice President for Health Affairs
Dean of the School of Medicine
Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Chair in
Academic Medicine
Distinguished Professor of Orthopaedic
Surgery and Chemical, Materials and
Biomolecular Engineering
The University of Connecticut

Robert J. Alpern, M.D.
Dean, Ensign Professor of Medicine
Yale University School of Medicine

Mike H. Summerer, M.D., F.A.C.P.E.
Hospital Director
John Dempsey Hospital
University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington, Connecticut

Marna P. Borgstrom
President & Chief Executive Officer
Yale-New Haven Hospital/Yale New Haven
Health System
New Haven, Connecticut

Delaware

Robert J. Laskowski, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Christiana Care Health System
Newark, Delaware

Washington, DC

Jim Scott, M.D.
Dean
The George Washington University School
of Medicine and Health Sciences

Stephen Ray Mitchell, M.D.
Dean for Medical Education
Georgetown University School of Medicine

Robert E. Taylor, M.D., Ph.D., M.S.,
F.A.C.P.
Dean
Howard University College of Medicine

Matthew G. van Vranken
Executive Vice President, Spectrum Health
System
President, Spectrum Health Hospital Group
Washington, DC

Florida

John A. Rock, M.D.
Founding Dean College of Medicine
Senior Vice President Medical Affairs
Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology,
Pediatrics
Florida International University

John P. Fogarty, M.D.
Dean
Florida State University College of
Medicine

Deborah C. German, M.D.
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Central Florida

Michael L. Good, M.D.
Interim Dean
University of Florida College of Medicine

Laurence B. Gardner, M.D.
Miller Professor, Department of Medicine
Executive Dean for Education and Policy
Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
University of Miami

Stephen Klasko, M.D., M.B.A.
Dean and CEO of USD Health
University of South Florida College of
Medicine

Timothy M. Goldfarb
Chief Executive Officer
Shands Healthcare
Gainesville, Florida

Georgia

Thomas J. Lawley, M.D.
Dean
Emory University School of Medicine

D. Douglas Miller, M.D., C.M., M.B.A.
Dean and Senior Vice President for Health
Affairs
Medical College of Georgia School of
Medicine

William F. Bina, III, MD, MPH
Dean
Mercer University School of Medicine

Hawaii

Jerris R. Hedges, M.D., M.S., M.M.M.
Dean
University of Hawaii John A. Burns School
of Medicine

Illinois

Arthur J. Ross, III, M.D., M.B.A.
Dean, Chicago Medical School
Vice President for Medical Affairs, Rosalind
Franklin U-Med and Science
Chicago Medical School at Rosalind
Franklin University of Medicine and
Science

Richard L. Gamelli, M.D.
Dean
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of
Medicine

J. Larry Jameson, M.D., Ph.D.
Vice President for Medical Affairs and
Lewis Landsberg Dean
Northwestern University Feinberg School of
Medicine

Thomas A. Deutsch, M.D.
Dean, Rush Medical College
Senior Vice President, Rush University
Medical Center
Rush Medical College of Rush University
Medical Center

J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean and Provost
Southern Illinois University School of
Medicine

James L. Madara, M.D.
Dean, Division of Biological Sciences
CEO, University of Chicago Medical Center
Vice President, Medical Affairs
Thompson Distinguished Service Professor
University of Chicago Division of the
Biological Sciences-The Pritzker School of
Medicine

Joseph A. Flaherty, M.D.
Dean
University of Illinois College of Medicine

Indiana

D. Craig Brater, M.D.
Vice President of Indiana University
Dean and Walter J. Daly Professor
Indiana University School of Medicine

Iowa

Paul Rothman, M.D.
Dean
Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of
Medicine
University of Iowa

Kansas

Barbara F. Atkinson, M.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor, UK Medical
Center
Executive Dean
University of Kansas School of Medicine

Kentucky

Jay A. Perman, M.D.
Dean, College of Medicine
Vice President for Clinical Affairs
University of Kentucky

Louisiana

Steve Nelson, M.D.
Dean
Louisiana State University School of
Medicine in New Orleans

Benjamin P. Sachs, M.D.
Senior Vice President and Dean, School of
Medicine
Tulane University School of Medicine

Floyd J. Roberts Jr., M.D., F.A.C.P.,
F.C.C.P.
DIO and Chief Medical Officer
Baton Rouge General Medical Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Maryland

Edward D. Miller, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Dean of the Medical Faculty
Johns Hopkins University School of
Medicine

E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.
Dean
John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers
Distinguished Professor
Vice President for Medical Affairs
University of Maryland School of Medicine

Ronald R. Peterson
President
Johns Hopkins Health System
Baltimore, Maryland

Massachusetts

Karen Antman, M.D.
Dean and Provost of the Medical Campus
Boston University School of Medicine

Jeffrey S. Flier, M.D.
Dean of the Faculty of Medicine
Caroline Shields Walker Professor of
Medicine
Harvard Medical School

Michael Rosenblatt, M.D.
Dean
Tufts University School of Medicine

Terence R. Flotte, M.D.
Dean and Provost, University of
Massachusetts
Executive Deputy Chancellor
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Gary L. Gottlieb, M.D., M.B.A.
President, Brigham and Women's Hospital
Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical
School
Boston, Massachusetts

David J. Trull
President and Chief Executive Officer
Faulkner Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Peter L. Slavin, M.D.
President
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

David G. Fairchild, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Medical Officer
Associate Professor
Tufts Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts

Deeb N. Salem, M.D.
The Sheldon M. Wolff Professor and
Chairman, Tufts University School of
Medicine
Physician-in-Chief, Tufts Medical Center
Chairman, Tufts Medical Center Graduate
Medical Education Committee
Boston, Massachusetts

David M. Barrett, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Lahey Clinic Medical Center
Burlington, Massachusetts

Michigan

Marsha Dawn Rappley, M.D.
Dean
Michigan State University College of
Human Medicine

James O. Woolliscroft, M.D.
Dean and Lyle C. Roll Professor of
Medicine
University of Michigan Medical School

Valerie Parisi, M.D.
Acting Dean
Wayne State University School of Medicine

John R. Musich, M.D.
Vice President and Director, Department of
Medical Education
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, Michigan

Minnesota

Deborah E. Powell, M.D.
Dean and Assistant Vice President Clinical
Sciences
McKnight Presidential Leadership Chair
University of Minnesota Medical School

Gordon L. Alexander Jr., M.D.
President
University of Minnesota Medical Center,
Fairview
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Mississippi

Mark Adams
President & CEO
Mississippi Methodist Hospital and
Rehabilitation Center
Jackson, Mississippi

LouAnn Woodward, M.D.
Interim Dean
University of Mississippi School of
Medicine

David G. Putt, F.A.C.H.E.
Interim CEO University Hospitals and
Health System and Chief Operating Officer,
University Health System
The University of Mississippi Medical
Center
Jackson, Mississippi

Missouri

Philip O. Alderson, M.D.
Dean and Vice President for Health Sciences
Saint Louis University School of Medicine

Robert J. Churchill, M.D.
Interim Dean
University of Missouri-Columbia School of
Medicine

Betty M. Drees, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Dean
University of Missouri-Kansas City School
of Medicine

Larry J. Shapiro, M.D.
Dean, School of Medicine
Executive Vice Chancellor for Medical
Affairs
Washington University in St. Louis

Crystal Haynes
Chief Executive Officer
Saint Louis University Hospital
St. Louis, Missouri

Nebraska

Rowen K. Zetterman, M.D.
Dean
Creighton University School of Medicine

John L. Gollan, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean and Stokes-Shackleford Professor of
Medicine
University of Nebraska College of Medicine

Nevada

Ole J. Thienhaus, M.D., M.B.A.
Dean
University of Nevada School of Medicine

New Hampshire

William R. Green, Ph.D.
Dean and Elmer R. Pfefferkorn Professor of
Microbiology and Immunology
Dartmouth Medical School

Marc L. Bertrand, M.D.
Director, Graduate Medical Education
Designated Institutional Official
Associate Professor of Anesthesiology
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Lebanon, New Hampshire

New Jersey

Peter S. Amenta, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean
Professor of Pathology and Laboratory
Medicine
University of Medicine and Dentistry of
New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical
School

Robert L. Johnson, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry
Sharon and Joseph L. Muscarelle Endowed
Dean
University of Medicine and Dentistry of
New Jersey-New Jersey Medical School

New Mexico

Paul B. Roth, M.D.
Dean and Executive Vice President for
Health Sciences
University of New Mexico School of
Medicine

New York

Vincent P. Verdile, M.D., M.S.
Dean and Executive Vice President for
Health Affairs
Albany Medical College

Allen M. Spiegel, M.D.
Dean
Albert Einstein College of Medicine of
Yeshiva University

Lee Goldman, M.D., M.P.H.
Dean, Faculties of Health Science and
Medicine
Executive Vice President for Health and
Biomedical Sciences
Columbia University College of Physicians
and Surgeons

Dennis S. Charney, M.D.
Dean
Mount Sinai School of Medicine of New
York University

Ralph A. O'Connell, M.D.
Provost and Dean, School of Medicine
New York Medical College

Robert I. Grossman, M.D.
The Saul J. Farber Dean and Chief
Executive Officer, NYU Langone Medical
Center
New York University School of Medicine

Richard N. Fine, M.D.
Dean
The School of Medicine at Stony Brook
University Medical Center

Ian L. Taylor, M.D., M.B.Ch.B., Ph.D.
Senior Vice President for Biomedical
Education and Research
Dean, College of Medicine
State University of New York Downstate
Medical Center College of Medicine

Steven J. Scheinman, M.D.
Dean, College of Medicine, and Senior Vice
President
State University of New York Upstate
Medical University

Michael E. Cain, M.D.
Dean
University at Buffalo State University of
New York School of Medicine and
Biomedical Sciences

David S. Guzick, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean, School of Medicine and Dentistry
University of Rochester

Antonio M. Gotto Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Dean and Provost for Medical Affairs
Weill Cornell Medical College

James J. Barba
President and Chief Executive Officer
Albany Medical Center
Albany, New York

North Carolina

Paul R. G. Cunningham, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Dean and Senior Associate Vice Chancellor
for Medical Affairs
Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina
University

Nancy Catherine Andrews, M.D., Ph.D.,
M.S.
Dean
Duke University School of Medicine

William L. Roper, MD, MPH
Dean, UNC School of Medicine
Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs
CEO, UNC Health Care
The University of North Carolina at Chapel
Hill School of Medicine

William B. Applegate, M.D., M.P.H.,
F.A.C.P.
Dean, Wake Forest University School of
Medicine
President, Wake Forest University Health
Sciences
Wake Forest University School of Medicine

Gary L. Park
President
UNC Health Care System
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Kevin W. Sowers, M.S.N., R.N., F.A.A.N.
Chief Executive Officer
Duke University Hospital
Durham, North Carolina

North Dakota

H. David Wilson, M.D.
Dean and Vice President for Health Affairs
University of North Dakota School of
Medicine and Health Sciences

Ohio

Pamela B. Davis, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean and Vice President for Medical Affairs
Research Professor
Case Western Reserve University School of
Medicine

Lois M. Nora, M.D., J.D., M.B.A.
Dean, College of Medicine and President,
Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy
Northeastern Ohio Universities College of
Medicine

Wiley Souba, M.D., D. Sc., M.B.A.
Dean, College of Medicine and Vice
President and Executive Dean of Health
Sciences
Ohio State University College of Medicine

Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President of
Health Affairs
Dean, College of Medicine
The University of Toledo College of
Medicine

Howard M. Part, M.D.
Dean
Wright State University Boonshoft School
of Medicine

David P. Byrnes
Director of Government Relations
The MetroHealth System
Cleveland, Ohio

Oklahoma

M. Dewayne Andrews, M.D.
Vice President for Health Affairs
Executive Dean, College of Medicine
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences
Center

Oregon

Mark A. Richardson, M.D., M.Sc.B.,
M.B.A.
Dean
Oregon Health and Science University
School of Medicine

Peter F. Rapp
Executive Vice President and Executive
Director
Oregon Health and Science University
Healthcare
Portland, Oregon

Pennsylvania

Richard V. Homan, M.D.
Dean and Senior Vice President for Health
Affairs
Drexel University College of Medicine

Mark L. Tykocinski, M.D.
Anthony F. and Gertrude M. DePalma Dean
Senior Vice President, Thomas Jefferson
University
Jefferson Medical College of Thomas
Jefferson University

Harold L. Paz, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical
Center
Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and
Dean
Penn State University and College of
Medicine

John Michael Daly, M.D.
Dean
Temple University School of Medicine

Arthur H. Rubenstein, M.B.B.Ch.
Dean, School of Medicine
Executive Vice President, University of
Pennsylvania for the Health System
University of Pennsylvania

Arthur S. Levine, M.D.
Dean and Senior Vice Chancellor for the
Health Sciences
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Elliot Sussman, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Lehigh Valley Hospital
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Christopher T. Olivia, M.D.
President & CEO
West Penn Allegheny Health System
Pittsburgh, PA

Puerto Rico

Joxel Garcia M.D., M.B.A.
President and Dean
Ponce School of Medicine

Walter Frontera, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean
University of Puerto Rico School of
Medicine

Rhode Island

Timothy J. Babineau, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Rhode Island Hospital
Providence, Rhode Island

South Carolina

Joseph G. Reves, M.D., M.S.
Dean and Vice President for Medical Affairs
Medical University of South Carolina
College of Medicine

James Raymond, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer and DIO
Palmetto Health
Columbia, South Carolina

Katherine G. Stephens
Vice President of Medical Education
Palmetto Health
Columbia, South Carolina

Michael C. Riordan
President and CEO
Greenville Hospital System
Greenville, South Carolina

South Dakota

Rodney R. Parry, M.D.
Dean and Vice President of Health Affairs
Sanford School of Medicine of the
University of South Dakota

Tennessee

Steven J. Schwab, M.D.
Executive Dean
University of Tennessee Health Science
Center College of Medicine

Jeffrey R. Balsler, M.D., Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs
Dean, School of Medicine
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Texas

William T. Butler, M.D.
Executive Dean, Interim President, CEO,
and Chancellor Emeritus
Baylor College of Medicine

Christopher C. Colenda, M.D., M.P.H.
Dean
Texas A&M Health Science Center College
of Medicine

Steven L. Berk, M.D.
Dean and Vice President for Medical Affairs
Texas Tech University Health Sciences
Center School of Medicine

Garland D. Anderson, M.D.
Dean, School of Medicine and Executive
Vice President and Provost
Thomas N. & Gleaves T. James
Distinguished Chair
University of Texas Medical Branch School
of Medicine

Giuseppe N. Colasurdo, M.D.
Dean
H. Wayne Hightower Distinguished
Professor
Professor and Chairman, Department of
Pediatrics
University of Texas Medical School at
Houston

Glenn A. Half, M. D.
Interim Dean, School of Medicine
Professor of Surgery
Dielmann Chair in Transplant Sciences
Director, Transplant Center
The University of Texas Health Science
Center at San Antonio

George Hernandez
President and Chief Executive Officer
University Health System
Bexar County, Texas

David C. Pate, M.D., J.D.
Chief Executive Officer
St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital
Houston, Texas

Donald E. Wesson, M.D.
Vice Dean, Texas A & M College of
Medicine
Chief Academic Officer, Scott and White
Memorial Hospital
Temple, Texas

Utah

A. Lorris Bentz, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Dean, School of Medicine and
Senior Vice President for Health Sciences
Chief Executive Officer, University of Utah
Health Care
University of Utah School of Medicine

Vermont

Frederick C. Morin III, M.D.
Dean
University of Vermont College of Medicine

Virginia

Gerald J. Pepe, Ph.D.
Dean and Provost
Eastern Virginia Medical School

Steven T. DeKosky, M.D.
Vice President and Dean
University of Virginia School of Medicine

Jerome F. Strauss, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean and Executive Vice President for
Medical Affairs
Virginia Commonwealth University School
of Medicine

Cynda Johnson, M.D., M.B.A.
Founding Dean
Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Deborah W. Davis
Chief Operating Officer
Medical College of Virginia Hospitals
Richmond, Virginia

Washington

Paul G. Ramsey, M.D.
CEO, UW Medicine
Executive Vice President for Medical
Affairs and
Dean of the School of Medicine,
University of Washington

West Virginia

James E. Brick, M.D.
Interim Dean
West Virginia University School of
Medicine

J. Thomas Jones
President and CEO
W.Va. United Health System
Fairmont, West Virginia

Wisconsin

Jonathan Ravdin, M.D.
Dean and Executive Vice President
Medical College of Wisconsin

Robert N. Golden, M.D.
Dean and Public Health Vice Chancellor for
Medical Affairs
University of Wisconsin School of Medicine
and Public Health

Donna Katen-Bahensky
President and CEO
University of Wisconsin Hospital and
Clinics
Madison, Wisconsin