

May 24, 2004

The Honorable Tom Daschle
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Daschle:

The Association of American Medical Colleges thanks you for your continued leadership on health care issues in the U.S. Congress, in particular your dedication to improving health care by eliminating disparities that adversely affect the nation's underserved communities. The AAMC is committed to reducing disparities by enhancing the diversity of the physician workforce to more accurately represent our diverse nation. As such, the AAMC is pleased to endorse the "Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2003" (S. 1833). The AAMC represents the nation's 126 accredited allopathic medical schools, 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, and more than 105,000 faculty through 96 academic and scientific societies.

We greatly appreciate that your bill addresses a range of diseases and conditions that can disproportionately affect minority populations, while also seeking to enhance culturally and linguistically appropriate care. We also commend the reauthorization of Title VII diversity training programs, as well as funding for research on the impact of health workforce diversity. The AAMC believes that increasing the number of minority physicians is important to serving the nation's ever-growing minority population.

The AAMC joins you in your commitment to eliminate the health care gap and looks forward to promoting passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.