

June 15, 2004

The Chairs of the Platform Committee
C/o The Democratic National Committee
430 South Capitol Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Platform Committee Chairs:

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) respectfully submits the following language for consideration by the Platform Committee:

“Our teaching hospitals and medical schools make enormous contributions by educating future physicians and biomedical scientists; leading biomedical, behavioral, and health services research; championing the application of new knowledge to alleviate suffering; rehabilitating injury, and preventing disease and premature death; and fulfilling this nation’s obligation to provide care to its poorest and sickest members. Teaching hospitals and medical schools lay the foundation for the best medical care in the world, and we will continue to promote policies that strengthen them.

“We support a continued investment in the continuum of public health activities within the U.S. Public Health Service to achieve improved health outcomes and protect Americans against the health consequences of terrorist attacks. Strengthening biomedical, behavioral and health services research, improving community-based disease prevention and health promotion, ensuring health care services for the medically underserved, preserving a safe food and drug supply, and training sufficient numbers of health and public health professionals are essential if we are to improve and protect the health of all Americans.”

The AAMC represents the 126 accredited U.S. medical schools; the 16 accredited Canadian medical schools; some 400 major teaching hospitals; and more than 105,000 faculty in 96 academic and scientific societies. We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.
President