



**Association of
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Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.
President

March 17, 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Specter and Harkin:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation for your exemplary personal leadership in championing the amendment to add \$7 billion to the FY 2007 budget resolution for health, education, and human services programs. The AAMC represents the nation's 125 accredited allopathic medical schools, nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, and 96 academic and scientific societies representing 109,000 medical school faculty members.

The academic medical community and indeed the nation is indebted to both of you for your unwavering support for the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the other agencies of the Public Health Service that contribute so much to improving the health and well-being of all Americans. The funding your amendment provides will help sustain the research, education, and patient care activities at the nations' medical schools and teaching hospitals as we confront unprecedented health challenges ranging from an aging and increasingly diverse population to the threat of new and re-emerging diseases.

Once again, thank you for your continued leadership and perseverance on behalf of these vitally important programs. We look forward to continuing to work with you toward achieving our mutual goal of improved health.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jordan J. Cohen".

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.