



March 28, 2006

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

The Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman
House Budget Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
303 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to urge you to support the DeLauro 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.

This amendment would restore to the FY 2005 levels funding for the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the other agencies of the Public Health Service that are critical to improving the health and well-being of all Americans. The funding this amendment provides is needed to 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.

We realize the multitude of priorities Congress must address in formulating the budget. However, we believe there are no higher priorities than providing healthier, more productive lives for all Americans. We urge you to support the addition of \$7 billion to the budget resolution to preserve the discretionary health programs.

Sincerely,

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

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.