



October 4, 2006

The Honorable Michael Castle  
United States House of Representatives  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**

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**Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.**  
President

Dear Congressman Castle:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I thank you for your leadership and steadfast commitment to the important programs supported by the Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill. The AAMC represents the nation's 125 accredited medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems; and 96 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 109,000 faculty members, 67,000 medical students, and 104,000 resident physicians.

We appreciate your continued efforts to ensure that the House Leadership upholds its agreement to provide no less than \$7 billion above the Administration's request for the health and education programs funded by this subcommittee. This funding is necessary to sustain the research, education, and patient care activities at the nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals. As we confront unprecedented health challenges ranging from an aging and increasingly diverse population to the threat of a physician shortage, it is imperative that we invest in the future of our nation's health care infrastructure.

The AAMC strongly supported the agreement that you and your colleagues negotiated earlier this year. The additional \$3 billion you requested above the \$4.1 billion previously shifted to the Labor, HHS, Education Subcommittee would restore funding for the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the other agencies of the Public Health Service to at least their FY 2005 levels. As fiscal year 2007 begins, we support your continued efforts to guarantee that the House Leadership honors this commitment.

The academic medical community, and indeed the nation, is indebted to you for your unwavering support for programs that are critical to improving the health and well-being of all Americans. We look forward to continuing to work with you toward achieving our mutual goal of improved health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell G. Kirch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K".

Darrell G. Kirch