



**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
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July 21, 2008

**Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I urge you to support the inclusion of \$500 million in additional funding for the National Institutes of Health in the Supplementary Appropriations bill to be considered by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The AAMC represents the 129 accredited U.S. medical schools, nearly 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, including 68 Veterans Affairs medical centers, and 94 academic and scientific societies.

The nation's investment in NIH enables researchers across the country to practice world-class science that improves the health and quality of life of all Americans. Yet, FY 2008 marks the fifth consecutive year that the NIH budget has failed to keep pace with biomedical research inflation, and since FY 2003, NIH has lost more than 10 percent of its purchasing power. As a result, promising research projects that could yield new cures, prevention strategies, and personalized therapies remain unfunded, and scores of aspiring research scientists are discouraged from committing to a career in biomedical research. The funding provided in the supplemental bill will help reverse this troubling budget trend.

Among the multitude of priorities that Congress must address in this time of funding constraints, we believe there is no higher priority than ensuring healthier, more productive lives for all. The nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals urge you to support the additional funds for NIH in the supplemental appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell G. Kirch". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.