



September 12, 2006

**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
2450 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-1127
T 202 828 0460 F 202 862 6161
www.aamc.org

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.
President

The Honorable James Sensenbrenner
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), a member organization of the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR), I urge you to support the passage of the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) when it comes before the Committee on the Judiciary on September 13. We strongly believe that current federal law should be amended to address the serious threat that violent actions committed by animal rights extremists pose to scientific research. The AAMC represents the nation's 125 accredited allopathic medical schools, nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, and 94 academic and scientific societies, representing more than 109,000 faculty members.

For many years, institutions and companies conducting biomedical research with animals have been the target of animal extremists employing increasingly threatening tactics. Not only has there been significant damage to research facilities and research property, including destruction of irreplaceable scientific data, but there also has been a growing climate of fear throughout the research community. The AETA (H.R. 4239) will allow federal authorities to help prevent, better investigate, and prosecute individuals who seek to halt medical research through acts of intimidation, harassment, and violence. This bill seeks to protect the important contribution that animals make to life-saving research by addressing the risk that animal extremists pose to researchers, their families, and employees, as well as the health of the American people.

We in the biomedical research community greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue. We urge you to support the passage of H.R. 4239 by the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrell G. Kirch".

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.