



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**

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Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.
President

July 2, 2007

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to urge the Senate to pass the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA). This bill will benefit every American and directly improve the lives of those concerned about the potential misuse of their genetic information in health insurance and employment decisions. The Senate passed GINA unanimously in the 108th and 109th Congresses but has not passed it yet in the 110th Congress. The House passed this legislation (H.R. 493) by a vote of 420 to 3 on April 25. The AAMC represents 125 accredited U.S. medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 68 Department of Veterans Affairs' medical centers; and 96 academic and scientific societies.

The AAMC is concerned that many Americans will be discouraged from participating in fulfilling the promise of personalized medicine, as well as in promising medical research, for fear of discrimination by employers or health insurance providers who may improperly use genetic information. This lack of participation would blunt the implementation of prospective, preventive medical care and have a negative impact on researchers, clinicians, and industry, slowing the research and development of targeted, more effective drugs and treatments. Protection of genetic and genomic information is needed urgently to prevent such information from being used inappropriately and to strengthen the confidence of the American public that their participation in the practice of genetic medicine and medical research will not be punished. We urge Congress to pass this legislation now.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue. We look forward to working with you to have the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act swiftly enacted.

Sincerely,

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

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.