



August 28, 2006

**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
703 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.
President

Dear Senator Bingaman:

On behalf of the 125 medical schools, nearly 400 major teaching hospitals, more than 105,000 faculty in 98 academic medical societies, and approximately 163,000 medical students and residents represented by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to express our support for the "Health Partnership Act" (S. 2772).

By establishing a new federal funding mechanism for state health coverage initiatives, your legislation encourages the development of innovative strategies to assure affordable, quality healthcare for uninsured individuals. The "Health Partnership Act" also establishes a State Health Innovation Commission to monitor the impact of such initiatives and report on their strengths and weaknesses.

The AAMC supports S. 2772 for providing a unique opportunity to develop and evaluate state initiatives to cover the uninsured. We commend you for your commitment and welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff in advancing this legislation.

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.