



January 23, 2007

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
SH-703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.
President

Dear Senator Bingaman:

On behalf of the 125 medical schools, nearly 400 major teaching hospitals, more than 109,000 faculty in 96 academic medical societies, and approximately 171,000 medical students and residents represented by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to express our support for the bipartisan, bicameral "Health Partnership Act" (S. 325).

By establishing a new grant funding mechanism for state, local, and Indian health coverage initiatives, S. 325 promotes the development of creative strategies to improve healthcare access. The State Health Innovation Commission formed by your legislation will identify the most promising proposals, monitor their impact over five years, and recommend that certain initiatives be implemented on a national basis.

The AAMC supports S. 325 for providing a unique opportunity to develop and evaluate state initiatives to cover the uninsured. Such legislation will provide policy makers with valuable information and insight as they work toward healthcare reform at the Federal level.

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 style with a large, sweeping "K".

Darrel G. Kirch, MD