



January 22, 2009

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
United States House of Representatives  
2354 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Association of  
American Medical Colleges  
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**Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Chairman Rangel:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), representing 129 medical schools, nearly 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, and 94 academic and professional societies, I write to personally thank you for your continued leadership and strong commitment to the academic community and teaching hospital issues included in the economic stimulus package.

The AAMC strongly supports your efforts and leadership, particularly with the inclusion of the Amendment calling for a retroactive moratorium on the Medicare Indirect Medical Education (IME) adjustment made under the capital IPPS to address the 50% reduction in payments which began October 1, 2008. We believe this is an important first step towards stopping the full elimination of the capital IME adjustment scheduled to occur on October 1, 2009. As you know this adjustment helps teaching hospitals maintain several unique missions and related jobs, including making the capital investment necessary to train the next generation of physicians and provide the highest level of care available.

We remain supportive of your attempts to move health care technology forward and applaud the inclusion of the Health Information Technology (HIT) and the significant financial resources devoted to HIT in the recovery language. Secure HIT has the potential to greatly improve health care quality, prevent medical errors, and increase administrative efficiencies. At the same time, we remain concerned that some of the bill's provisions will have a negative, far-reaching effect on the day-to-day operations of teaching hospitals and health systems. We have discussed some of these concerns with your staff, and we welcome the opportunity to continue to work with you on this issue as this economic stimulus package moves forward. The AAMC remains committed to working with you to promote the adoption of cutting edge health information technology while ensuring that patients' protected health information remains secure.

Thank you again for your tireless efforts and strong leadership on behalf of teaching hospitals and the academic community.

Sincerely,

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

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.