



October 2, 2009

**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

The Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz
U.S. House of Representatives
330 Cannon Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Congresswoman Schwartz:

I write to thank and commend you for reintroducing The Healthcare Innovation Zone Pilot Act of 2009 as H.R. 3664 and to offer The Association of American Medical Colleges' (AAMC) full support. We are excited about the possibility of working with you on this important and innovative concept.

Our nation faces a complex health care crisis of access, quality, and cost, and there is an urgent need to design and test large scale, innovative models to transform the way we deliver and pay for care. This legislation will establish pilot "health care innovation zones (HIZs)" building on the strengths of academic medical centers (AMCs) and test these zones around the country with the goal of improving patient outcomes, while also slowing the growth of health care costs.

The AAMC greatly appreciates your continued support of academic medicine and we are committed to doing everything possible to help make this law.

Sincerely,

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

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.
President and CEO

The Association of American Medical Colleges is a not-for-profit association representing all 131 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools, nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 68 Department of Veterans Affairs' medical centers, and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 128,000 faculty members, 75,000 medical students, and 110,000 resident physicians.