



**Association of
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Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.
President

May 10, 2005

The Honorable Tim Murphy
322 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Murphy:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to express our support for the "Community Health Center Volunteer Physician Protection Act of 2005" (H.R. 1313). The AAMC represents the nation's 125 accredited medical schools, some 400 major teaching hospitals, 94 academic and scientific professional societies that comprise 109,000 faculty members, 67,000 medical students, and 104,000 residents.

Your legislation offers a meaningful incentive for physicians to volunteer their services at Community Health Centers (CHCs) by providing medical liability protection under the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA). Such action would help mitigate the shortage of CHC physicians and thereby improve healthcare access for many underserved Americans. Additionally, your legislation would accomplish this without increasing the economic burden on these financially fragile organizations.

The AAMC values the vital role that CHCs play in our nation's healthcare system. Many AAMC members devote staff and resources in support of patient care activities at CHCs. The Centers also provide unique learning environments and experiences for many medical students and residents. The AAMC supports your legislation because it will help CHCs maintain these valuable patient care and medical education activities.

The AAMC applauds your efforts for offering H.R. 1313 as a viable option for enhancing the work of CHCs. We look forward to working with your staff in securing support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jordan J. Cohen".

Jordan J. Cohen, MD