



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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June 23, 2008

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

The Honorable Charles Rangel
United States House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to thank you for introducing the "Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008" (H.R. 6331) on June 20, 2008. The language of this bill specifically addresses the 10.6% Medicare physician payment cuts scheduled for July 1 by providing a payment freeze for 2008, and a 1.1% update for 2009. We applaud your leadership in addressing the physician payment update and continue to strongly urge Members of Congress to act immediately to avert the proposed July 1st cuts.

The AAMC represents 109,000 teaching physicians, 67,000 medical students, and 104,000 resident physicians as well as nearly 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, the 129 accredited U.S. medical schools, and 94 professional and academic societies. The proposed reduction in the physician payments would threaten the fiscal viability of the physician practices and institutions that serve an overwhelming number of Medicare beneficiaries and provide many services unavailable elsewhere in the community.

The AAMC thanks you for introducing H.R. 6331 and urges the swift passage of legislation to avert the Medicare payment cuts as the July 1st deadline is fast approaching.

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.