



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**

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

April 18, 2016

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the nation's medical schools, major teaching hospitals, and the patients we serve, I write to thank you for signing the Senate Hospital Compare Star Ratings letter led by Sens. Portman and Casey. Your strong leadership in recognizing the challenges related to caring for patients with low socioeconomic status or multiple complex chronic conditions and asking the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to delay release of the star ratings to provide the necessary time to more closely examine the star rating methodology, analyze its impact on different types of hospitals, and provide more transparent information regarding the calculation of the ratings to determine accuracy, is greatly appreciated.

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health care through innovative medical education, cutting-edge patient care, and groundbreaking medical research. Its members comprise all 145 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 80 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC serves the leaders of America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and their 148,000 faculty members, 83,000 medical students, and 115,000 resident physicians.

The AAMC strongly supports a transparent process for public reporting of provider quality data, but believes that this information must be reliable, valid, and useful for patients. As currently designed, the Star ratings are flawed and do not accurately reflect the care received at hospitals and particularly, the most vulnerable and complex patient populations served at the nation's major teaching hospitals.

Again, thank you for your work on this important issue. The AAMC appreciates your friendship and appreciates your efforts to address the flawed Hospital Compare Star Ratings data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell G. Kirch".

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.