



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

September 19, 2017

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the nation's medical schools and major teaching hospitals, I write to express our strong opposition to the Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson (GCHJ) proposal currently being circulated, and to urge you to vote against this measure if brought to the Senate floor.

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has continually advocated for a number of key principles as fundamental cornerstones of any successful health care system. These principles include offering high-quality, affordable health insurance to all; preserving and fortifying the safety net through Medicaid and other policies; and encouraging innovation in the delivery system, among others. The GCHJ legislation does not meet these principles, as it repeals the individual and employer mandates, repeals Medicaid expansion, and caps traditional Medicaid funding. Under this legislation, the number of uninsured patients nationwide will increase dramatically and important existing patient protections will be at risk. Importantly, the GCHJ proposal, which represents a complete overhaul of the health care system, should be fully and adequately examined by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) before any further action is taken.

We support the thoughtful and deliberative process that the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) and Finance Committees are pursuing to address flaws in the current health care marketplace. Instead of supporting the GCHJ legislation, we urge the Senate to continue to engage in close collaboration with health care stakeholders and to craft a bipartisan bill that is responsive to the issues presented during the Senate HELP and Finance hearings.

Please feel free to contact me or Karen Fisher, JD, AAMC chief public policy officer, at (kfisher@aamc.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell G. Kirch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "h".

Darrell G. Kirch, MD