



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

October 31, 2018

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I would like to share my sincere appreciation for your support for patients and cures through your vote to pass the conference agreement for the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill (P.L. 115-245). We are especially grateful for the bill's robust investment in medical research and key federal programs that bolster the health care workforce.

The 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 are all 152 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 more than 173,000 full-time faculty members, 89,000 medical students, 129,000 resident physicians, and more than 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences.

The \$2 billion increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for FY 2019 will support cutting-edge medical research at medical schools and teaching hospitals and help deliver on the promise of a healthier tomorrow to millions of patients battling life-threatening and chronic diseases. We also are grateful for the bill's investment in other key agencies that promote and protect the nation's health, including: an increase of \$4 million for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); continued investment in workforce development programs within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), including the Health Careers Opportunity Program and the Area Health Education Centers program; and a new HRSA graduate medical education grant program.

Thank you again for your support for research and health care programs, and the hope they provide to patients across the country. Please contact my colleague Tannaz Rasouli, Senior Director of Public Policy & Strategic Outreach at trasouli@aamc.org or 202-828-0057 with any questions.

Sincerely,

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

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.