



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

October 31, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS- Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS- Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Blunt and Cole, and Ranking Members Murray and DeLauro:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I would like to share my sincere appreciation for your dedication to patients and cures through your bipartisan efforts to draft and finalize the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill. Specifically, we are grateful for your continued commitment to robust investment in medical research and your ongoing efforts to preserve 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

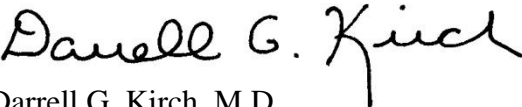
chronic diseases. This additional funding builds on significant investments in the NIH that you have shepherded over the past three fiscal years, continuing a trend of sustained, meaningful growth that enables researchers to examine the full spectrum of science, address emerging and ongoing public health crises, and discover new pathways of investigation that could lead to tomorrow's cures.

We also wish to thank you for investing in other key agencies that promote and protect the nation's health. An increase of \$4 million for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will help bring the breakthroughs developed by NIH-supported research from the bench to the bedside, optimizing the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the nation's health care delivery system. Additionally, continued investment in workforce development programs within the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), including the Health Careers Opportunity Program, the Area Health Education Centers program, and a new HRSA graduate medical education grant program, will help promote a culturally competent workforce and improve access to health care professionals in underserved communities. We hope to keep working with you to build on these investments in the FY 2020 appropriations process.

In addition to my gratitude for your leadership in crafting and advancing this spending bill, I would like to thank your staff for their tireless dedication and hard work. In particular, I would like to thank Kelly Brown, Jen Cama, Laura Friedel, Alex Keenan, Kathryn Salmon, and Stephen Steigleder, among your staff.

Thank you again for your steadfast support for research and public health programs supported through the Labor-HHS funding bill, and the hope they provide to patients, researchers, physicians, and other caregivers across the country. We look forward to continuing to work with you to highlight the importance of investing in these programs to support patients and our nation's health security in FY 2020 and beyond. 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,


Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.