



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**

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

September 30, 2015

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Reed and Blunt:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to thank you for introducing the “Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act.” The AAMC is a not-for-profit association representing all 144 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 93 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 148,000 faculty members, 83,000 medical students, and 115,000 resident physicians.

Surveys of graduating medical students consistently find the most important factors influencing specialty choice include: a student’s personal interest in a specialty’s content and/or level of patient care; desire for the “controllable lifestyle” offered by some specialties; and the influence of a role model in a specialty. Your legislation directly addresses these factors through resources to identify and develop effective mentors in primary care; to promote educational innovations in priority areas like the patient-centered medical home or team-based care; and to study the effect of burdensome documentation requirements on the practice environment.

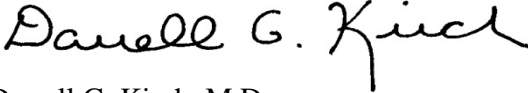
Additionally, the bill builds on the success of the National Health Service Corps by strengthening states’ investments in scholarship programs for health professionals. By providing opportunities for states to tailor their programs to areas of greatest need, the bill will improve access to care for individuals in health professional shortage areas, medically underserved areas, and other underserved communities.

For 52 years, the Title VII health professions programs have been helping the workforce adapt to the nation’s ever-changing health care needs. As you know, by 2025, the nation will face a shortage of as many as 91,000 physicians in both primary and specialty care, unless Congress lifts the cap on federal support for residency training. Your bill, in concert with legislation to increase the residency cap and a robust investment in Title VII, will help prepare the workforce to respond to the increased demand for health care services.

Senators Reed and Blunt
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Again, thank you for your efforts to champion the health care workforce. The AAMC looks forward to continued collaboration with your offices as this legislation moves forward in Congress.

With best regards,

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.