



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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April 12, 2016

Senator Mark Warner
United States Senate
475 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner:

On behalf of the nation's medical schools and major teaching hospitals, I write to thank you for introducing the "States Achieve Medicaid Expansion (SAME) Act." The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) strongly supports this important legislation which would provide three years of full federal funding for states expanding Medicaid. Additionally, we also hope it will encourage more states to adopt these necessary expansions of health care coverage.

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 comprise all 145 accredited U.S. 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.

We applaud the 30 states and Washington, D.C. that have already opted to expand Medicaid coverage to all individuals earning up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level. These efforts have provided critical medical insurance to millions of Americans who would have otherwise been unable to afford coverage, and in many cases may have forgone life-saving care. In these 30 states, AAMC member institutions and their faculty practice plans have been able to treat more patients in outpatient settings before their conditions become urgent – improving health outcomes for patients and stabilizing hospitals serving the most vulnerable populations.

The AAMC continues to encourage the remaining 20 states to expand Medicaid coverage, and the SAME Act makes this option more affordable and more compelling. The bill offers these remaining states the same funding opportunity that expansion states seized upon in 2014: three full years of federal funding for their Medicaid expansion populations. Millions of Americans currently fall into the "coverage gap" between Medicaid eligibility and federal subsidies to purchase coverage through the exchange, and the providers serving these uninsured Americans continue to struggle to provide the highest-quality care with dwindling resources. Any effort to convince all states to undertake full Medicaid expansion is welcome.

Again, we thank you for introducing this important legislation and look forward to working with you in support of its passage. If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact Len Marquez, AAMC director of government relations, at lmarquez@aamc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Atul Grover". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Atul Grover, MD, PhD
Executive Vice President