



August 11, 2020

The Honorable Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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Dear Rep. Mucarsel-Powell:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to thank you for your bill, the Mobile Options for Testing In Our Neighborhoods (MOTION) Act, authorizing grants to academic medical centers, health centers, health departments, and nonprofit organizations to establish or expand mobile COVID-19 testing initiatives. The AAMC is pleased to support this legislation.

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health care through medical education, patient care, medical research, and community collaborations. Its members are all 155 accredited U.S. medical schools; nearly 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC serves the leaders of America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and their more than 179,000 full-time faculty members, 92,000 medical students, 140,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences.

In *The Way Forward on COVID-19: A Road Map to Reset the Nation's Approach to the Pandemic*, released July 29th, the AAMC put forward 11 evidence-based actions to address the current public health emergency, including recommendations to increase the availability and accessibility of testing and to address and resolve health inequities. In addition to ongoing testing bottlenecks stemming from supply chain issues and other challenges, access to the nation's existing diagnostic testing capacity has been uneven, particularly for underserved communities. The residents of these communities may face challenges finding and reaching traditional testing sites due to transportation limitations or other barriers.

We appreciate that your bill would take a step toward addressing these inequities by authorizing grants to establish, equip, and deploy truly mobile testing units that would serve disadvantaged neighborhoods. These awards would be particularly effective if implemented with a commitment to community engagement, with grantees working in partnership with community-based organizations and leaders to develop resources, conduct outreach and program evaluations, and take other steps to understand and meet the community's needs. We believe that such grants would serve as an important complement to ongoing efforts to resolve testing shortfalls and to improve access.

Thank you again for your work toward our mutual goal of improved health for people everywhere. We look forward to continuing to work with you as the legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Fisher".

Karen Fisher, JD
Chief Public Policy Officer