



September 16, 2020

**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
655 K Street, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20001-2399
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The Honorable Eliot Engel
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Engel:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to thank you for your resolution expressing support for prioritizing racial and ethnic diversity in clinical trials for therapies, diagnostics, and vaccines for COVID-19. The AAMC is pleased to endorse this resolution.

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. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; more than 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves 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.

The coronavirus pandemic has illuminated the social, economic, and health inequities in the United States which have resulted in COVID-19 having a devastating disproportionate impact on communities of color. We appreciate that your resolution encourages federal agencies to take meaningful steps independently and in partnership to engage minority communities in research and clinical trials participation, to address barriers that may prevent diverse participation in COVID-19 clinical trials, and to ensure equitable access to treatments and vaccines.

Through their missions of education, research, clinical care, and community collaboration, the nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals and health systems are actively responding to this public health crisis for all the communities they serve. They stand ready to partner with community groups and the federal government to build trust and facilitate clinical trials participation and access to therapies and vaccines for communities of color.

Thank you again for your efforts. We look forward to working with you to continue this important work. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or Christa Wagner at chwagner@aamc.org or 202-828-0525.

Sincerely,

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

Karen Fisher, JD
Chief Public Policy Officer

cc: Christa Wagner, PhD, Senior Legislative Analyst