



**Association of**

**American Medical Colleges**

655 K Street, N.W., Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20001-2399

T 202 828 0460 F 202 862 6161

www.aamc.org

**Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.**

President and Chief Executive Officer

June 17, 2016

The Honorable Elijah Cummings, Chair  
Democratic National Platform Drafting Committee

Dear Congressman Cummings:

The Association of American Medical Colleges respectfully submits the following language for consideration by the 2016 Democratic Platform Drafting Committee:

“Our nation’s medical schools and teaching hospitals make enormous contributions to the health and well-being of their communities and the nation by training a diverse workforce of future physicians, biomedical scientists and other health care professionals; promoting discovery and innovation through biomedical, behavioral, and health services research; applying new knowledge to prevent disease, disability, and premature death; and fulfilling the nation’s obligation to provide health care to its poorest and sickest members. Medical schools and teaching hospitals also provide health care to our nation’s veterans through affiliation agreements with VA medical centers.

The federal government recognizes that all Americans benefit from investments in medical education, biomedical research, and innovations in patient care. The government will continue its partnership with the nation’s medical schools and teaching hospitals through its investments in Medicare graduate medical education to support residency training and the specialized care and services provided by teaching hospitals, as well as through the National Institutes of Health and other federal agencies that promote medical research.

A robust medical research enterprise and a health care delivery system capable of responding to current and future health care challenges are critical to assuring the well-being of every American, as well as the nation itself.

The nation’s medical schools and teaching hospitals lay the foundation for the best medical care in the world by educating and training tomorrow’s doctors, finding tomorrow’s cures, and providing quality health care to all in need. We will continue to promote policies that strengthen their core missions of medical education, patient care, and medical research.

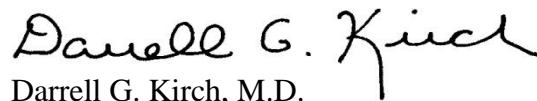
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Page 2

Medical schools and teaching hospitals do more than just train the next generation of health care workers – they lead in times of crisis by responding to health challenges ranging from new and emerging infections to incidents of mass trauma. Whether it’s an emergency or a serious illness requiring innovative treatments or complex care, the nation turns to America’s medical schools and teaching hospitals.”

The AAMC represents the 145 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 nearly 160,000 faculty members, 83,000 medical students, and 115,000 resident physicians.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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.  
President and Chief Executive Officer