



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
2450 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-1127
T 202 828 0460 F 202 862 6161
www.aamc.org

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

May 19, 2008

Dear Senator:

As President and CEO of the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges), I urge you to support the additional funding for the National Institutes of Health included in the Supplemental Appropriations bill. The AAMC is a not-for-profit association representing all 129 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 68 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and 94 academic and scientific societies.

The research supported and conducted by NIH has had a profound and far-reaching impact on our nation in many important ways, serving as a catalyst for new products and technologies, creating skilled jobs, contributing to the nation's economic growth, and most importantly, safeguarding and improving the lives of all our citizens. The discoveries resulting from the investment in NIH research are driving the transformation of the practice of medicine through the development of new and personalized therapies, cures, and prevention strategies.

Since FY 2003, funding for NIH has failed to keep pace with biomedical research inflation, and NIH has lost more than 10 percent of its purchasing power. At a time of unparalleled scientific opportunities and unprecedented health challenges, NIH should be positioned to support more research, not less. The funding provided in the supplemental bill will help reverse this trend.

We recognize the multitude of priorities Congress must address in this time of funding constraints. However, we believe there is no higher priority than ensuring healthier, more productive lives for all Americans. The AAMC urges you to support the supplemental appropriations bill to provide additional funds to the NIH.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell G. Kirch".

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.