



August 7, 2007

The Honorable Stevan Pearce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.
President

Dear Mr. Pearce:

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is pleased to endorse the “Americans Saving Through Health Research Bonds Act of 2007” (H.R. 3434). The AAMC is a nonprofit association representing all 125 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.

This legislation would create a new series of U.S. Savings Bonds that would dedicate 10 percent of the interest earned to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to fund medical research. The world’s leader in medical research, NIH focuses on current and emerging public health needs and promising areas of science. For more than a century, NIH has played a vital role in improving the health of our nation. Earlier this year, NIH Director Elias Zerhouni, M.D. testified before Congress that “The 21st century will be for the life sciences what the 20th century has been for the physical sciences. Mastery of the biological world will impact not just health, but also our ability to develop sensitive solutions to environmental and energy challenges and will be a key determinant of national competitiveness.” Your proposal would give Americans an opportunity to invest in the future of their health while also investing in their future economic health.

The AAMC thanks you for your leadership in introducing this legislation, and we look forward to working with you and your staff on behalf of its enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell G. Kirch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'K'.

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.