



April 16, 2008

**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
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United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to urge you to support the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) and all procedural motions necessary to ensure this bill's success. The AAMC represents 129 accredited U.S. medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 68 Department of Veterans Affairs' medical centers; and 94 academic and scientific societies representing 109,000 faculty members.

GINA directly benefits every American by providing federal legal protections against the misuse of genetic information. The AAMC is concerned that without such protection, individuals may refuse effective genetic tests or opt out of clinical trials. This lack of participation would hinder individuals' ability to manage their health proactively and would hamper the research and development process for targeted, more effective drugs and treatments. If patients, researchers, clinicians, and industry are to realize the promise of personalized medicine and the use of genetic information in health care, Congress must pass GINA.

Despite strong bipartisan support – including unanimous Senate approval in the 108<sup>th</sup> and 109<sup>th</sup> Congresses, and House passage of this legislation (H.R. 493) by a vote of 420 to 3 last April – the Senate has not yet passed GINA in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. The AAMC joins hundreds of organizations, including disease advocates, industry, academia, clinicians, researchers, and community groups, in urging your support for this important measure.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. I look forward to working with you to ensure swift passage of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

Sincerely,

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

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.