



June 16, 2005

**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
2450 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037-1127
T 202 828 0400 **F** 202 828 1125
www.aamc.org

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.
President

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
H-218 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write on behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) to express grave concern over the elimination of the Title VII health professions programs (with the exception of \$47 million for the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students) in the FY 2006 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill recently passed by the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee. The elimination of these programs will have a devastating impact on our medical schools' efforts to develop a well-trained, diverse physician workforce, in turn, harming the communities they serve. The AAMC represents the nation's 125 accredited allopathic medical schools, 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, and more than 109,000 faculty through 94 academic and scientific societies.

The Title VII programs address the shortages and geographic maldistribution of providers by training them to deliver care in underserved areas, including rural and inner-city communities. They are the only federal programs designed to increase minority representation in the health care workforce, as well as to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to meet the needs of special and underserved populations. The elimination of the Title VII health professions programs will halt development of a health care workforce designed to care for the most vulnerable communities.

We understand that there are many competing priorities in the fiscal year 2006 bill; however, sustaining these programs' funding is essential to ensure that quality care is being delivered in our country's neediest communities. I urge you to restore funding for the health professions programs in the FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill.

Your support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to working with you to ensure the continuation of congressional support for these critical programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan J. Cohen".

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.