



July 13, 2005

The Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**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

Via Fax: (202) 228-1229

Dear Senator Specter:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to convey our deepest gratitude for the significant increase the subcommittee provided for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and for the restoration of funding for the Title VII health professions programs as part of the FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. The AAMC represents the nation's 125 accredited allopathic medical schools, some 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, 98 academic and scientific societies representing 105,000 medical school faculty, and the nation's medical students and residents.

The \$1.05 billion increase for the NIH recommended by your subcommittee will help sustain the vital research conducted and supported by the agency. Your recognition of, and dedication to, the essential role that the NIH plays in the nation's overall health care environment, and in advancing the quality of life for all Americans is greatly appreciated. Additionally, restoration of the Title VII health professions programs will help train providers with the skills to care for special needs populations and improve minority representation in the health care workforce.

Once again, thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of these programs that are so critical to our nation's efforts to improve the health of all Americans. We look forward to continuing to work with you toward achieving our mutual goal of improved health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jordan J. Cohen".

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.