



**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

July 14, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to express our gratitude for your continued leadership in support of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In particular, we thank you for your efforts that resulted in the addition of \$500 million above the President's budget for NIH in the FY 2010 appropriations bill approved on June 10 by the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee. In addition, we thank you for ensuring that all NIH institutes and centers will receive funding to keep pace with biomedical research inflation by rejecting the Administration's proposal to target NIH funding.

As key partners with the NIH in advancing the nation's medical research agenda, the AAMC's members, which include all 131 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 nearly 90 academic and scientific societies, are gratified by the continued trust placed in our members by you and your colleagues.

Your dedication to the essential role that NIH plays in improving the quality of life for all Americans is greatly appreciated. Our members, and indeed the nation, are deeply indebted to you for your tireless efforts on behalf of NIH, and we look forward to continuing to work with you in support of this agency and its work that means so much to millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darrell G. Kirch".

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.