



January 24, 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 Mark E. Souder
Chairman
Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources
House Judiciary Committee
B-373B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges, I write to endorse the "Drug Addiction Treatment Expansion Act." The AAMC represents approximately 320 major non-federal teaching hospitals and health systems; all 125 accredited U.S. allopathic medical schools, 96 professional and academic societies, and the nation's medical student and residents.

As you know, the 106th Congress passed into law the Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) to expand treatment options for patients addicted to opiates. A limit of 30 patients per treating physician was included in the legislation to address concerns about potential abuse or diversion of the treatment medications. In addition to the limit per physician, DATA also contained language that imposed a 30-patient cap on group practices in addition to the limit per physician. As a result, larger group practices are disproportionately denied the ability to patients in need.

Your legislation would amend the Controlled Substances Act and clarify that group practices would not be limited to 30 patients while still limiting each provider within the group to 30 drug addicted patients. Such legislation is critical to teaching physicians who practice within larger groups affiliated with medical schools. As teaching physicians and hospitals provide a great deal of substance abuse services, your legislation will also improve access to such critically needed care.

The AAMC appreciates your leadership on this important issue and we look forward to working with you to securing enactment of this legislation this year.

Sincerely,

Jordan J. Cohen, M.D.