



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**

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Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer

January 4, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Cochran, Rogers, Cole and Blunt, and Ranking Members Mikulski, Lowey, DeLauro and Murray:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to thank you for your leadership in crafting the FY 2016 omnibus spending package (P.L. 114-113), which included investments critical to advancing the nation's health. The Association of American Medical Colleges is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health care through innovative medical education, cutting-edge patient care, and groundbreaking medical research. Its members comprise all 145 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 80 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC serves the leaders of America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and their 148,000 faculty members, 83,000 medical students, and 115,000 resident physicians.

We appreciate that you worked in a bipartisan manner to pass a spending package that recognizes the importance of innovative research, quality patient care, and a diverse, well-trained health care

Chairmen Cochran, Rogers, Cole and Blunt, and Ranking Members Mikulski, Lowey, DeLauro and Murray

January 4, 2016

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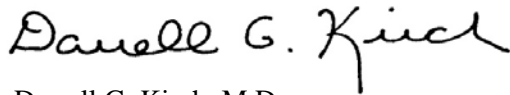
workforce. We are grateful that the omnibus includes \$32 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), continued funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), increased funding for VA research, and support for the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) health professions education programs, including continued funding for the Title VII Health Careers Opportunity Program's diversity pipeline program and increased funding for Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME).

As you know, NIH-funded research is the beginning of hope for millions of Americans and their families who are affected by illnesses such as diabetes, Alzheimer's, and cancer, and the \$2 billion increase in federal support for NIH is a crucial first step toward the development of life-changing cures and treatments. These patients turn to medical schools and teaching hospitals, where more than half of NIH-supported research occurs to advance medical science. Through Congress's FY 2016 investment and sustained, predictable growth in the NIH budget, physicians and scientists across the country will be able to pursue new strategies for tackling these devastating health challenges. Likewise, we are pleased with the nearly \$42 million increase in VA research funding, which will help drive innovations in care for veterans who have given our country so much.

Funding for AHRQ will propel vital improvements in patient care through research on health care quality and safety, and we greatly appreciate your recognition of the need to preserve such important health services research. We also applaud you for investing in HRSA's workforce programs, including both CHGME and the Title VII health professions programs. These programs are critical to ensuring that the health care workforce meets the needs of all Americans.

Funding for each of these programs and agencies is key to improving our nation's health during a time of rapid changes in health care technology and delivery. Again, on behalf of AAMC, I commend you for your leadership in passing this crucial spending package. We look forward to working with you to prioritize continued support for these vital programs for medical schools and teaching hospitals and the patients that rely on them.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell G. Kirch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K'.

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.