



Association of  
American Medical Colleges  
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**Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

May 18, 2012

The Honorable Jack Reed  
United States Senate  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jon Kyl  
United States Senate  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Reed and Kyl:

On behalf of the nation's teaching hospitals and medical schools, I write to offer support for the "Graduate Medical Education Reform Act of 2012" as an integral part of a larger approach to graduate medical education (GME) reform that addresses short- and long-term workforce demands by increasing the number of Medicare-supported residency positions.

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is a not-for-profit association representing all 137 accredited U.S. medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 59 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and nearly 90 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 128,000 faculty members, 75,000 medical students, and 110,000 resident physicians. The AAMC appreciates your long-standing and ongoing efforts to address the many challenges facing academic medicine.

Your thoughtful approach to achieving transparency and accountability within Medicare's support for GME is a positive first step, and one that directly aligns with our members' ongoing commitment to advancing medical education in accordance with the country's anticipated workforce needs. To fully realize this mutual goal, we believe that your legislation will be maximally effective as part of a comprehensive strategy that also increases the number of Medicare-supported residency positions.

As you know, the AAMC estimates that the United States faces a shortage of more than 90,000 physicians by 2020. If we do not address this critical problem, Medicare beneficiaries will find it difficult to access both the primary and specialty care they need. Your reliable leadership in championing federal programs to strengthen the nation's health care workforce, including your past support for Medicare GME, has been critical in efforts to avert a long-term health care access crisis. Our hope is that we can continue to work together to include your legislation in any proposal that increases the number of Medicare-supported residency slots.

Again, thank you for advocating on behalf of academic medicine. The AAMC greatly values your friendship and continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell G. Kirch".  
Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.