



September 25, 2007

**Association of
American Medical Colleges**

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The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
SD-219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.
President

Dear Mr. Chairman:

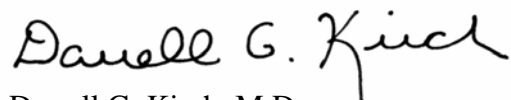
On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to express our support for the "Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007" (H.R. 976). The AAMC represents all 126 accredited U.S. medical schools, nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, and 94 professional and academic societies with 109,000 medical school faculty members.

By assuring continued and expanded funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), H.R. 976 will preserve and enhance healthcare access for millions of low-income children. This issue is particularly important to medical schools and teaching hospitals, which care for a disproportionately large segment of low-income children. Teaching hospitals account for nearly 73 percent of all inpatient charity care and 56 percent of all Medicaid discharges. Among several medical school faculty practice groups, over one-half of physician services provided to children are covered by Medicaid.

Of equal interest to medical schools and teaching hospitals is the need to maintain Medicare beneficiary access to physicians. We look forward to working with you to secure passage and enactment of legislation that will replace the next two years of Medicare physician payment cuts (15 percent reduction) with positive updates.

The AAMC commends you for your leadership and commitment as Congress moves toward passage of H.R. 976 and appreciate your efforts to reauthorize SCHIP before it expires on September 30.

Sincerely,


Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.