



May 2, 2008

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

The Honorable Charles Grassley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is pleased to endorse the "Physician Payments Sunshine Act" (S. 2029). The AAMC is a not-for-profit association representing all 129 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 94 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 109,000 faculty members, 67,000 medical students, and 104,000 resident physicians.

An effective and principled partnership between academic medical centers and various health product industries is critical to realize fully the benefits of biomedical research and ensure continued advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease. Appropriate management of this partnership by both academic medical centers and industry is crucial to ensure that it remains principled, thereby sustaining public trust in the proposition that both partners are fundamentally dedicated to the welfare of patients and the improvement of public health. A fundamental principle that should guide these interactions is that they should be transparent. Your legislation will go a long way in ensuring that transparency. Further, as amended, your legislation will create a unified national database of information, avoiding a patchwork of state systems governing by different standards.

The AAMC thanks you for your leadership on this important issue and we look forward to working with you to accomplish our shared goal of improving the health of the American people.

Sincerely,

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

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.