

July 30, 2024



Association of
American Medical Colleges
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The Honorable Mike Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chrissy Houlahan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Kelly and Houlahan:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write in support of your legislation, the Harley Jacobson Clinical Trial Participant Income Exemption Act (H.R.7418), which would amend the Internal Revenue Code to exclude compensation received by an individual for participating in an approved clinical trial from taxable income.

The AAMC is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Its members are all 158 U.S. medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education; 13 accredited Canadian medical schools; approximately 400 academic health systems and teaching hospitals, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America's medical schools, academic health systems and teaching hospitals, and the millions of individuals across academic medicine, including more than 193,000 full-time faculty members, 96,000 medical students, 153,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences. Following a 2022 merger, the Alliance of Academic Health Centers and the Alliance of Academic Health Centers International broadened participation in the AAMC by U.S. and international academic health centers.

The AAMC believes that clinical trials will be most effective in improving the health of the nation's families and communities if they intentionally include diverse populations. Ensuring that clinical trial participants represent a wide variety of socioeconomic and geographic communities helps researchers understand the efficacy of treatments among different populations in different contexts. We know that lower income participants who participate in clinical trials may experience financial burdens, a factor which represents a significant barrier to recruiting diverse cohorts. When researchers increase financial incentives for participation in clinical trials, they are more likely to successfully recruit a more representative sample of participants, which will ultimately increase the generalizability of the research. However, under current law the compensation that participants receive is considered taxable income.

Exempting compensation received for clinical trial participation from taxable income may incentivize participation from low-income communities, who are underrepresented in clinical research, particularly those who have limited disposable income, family-care obligations, and inflexible work schedules. The provisions of the proposed legislation represent a meaningful

improvement to support populations who experience additional financial burdens to clinical trial participation.

Thank you again for your leadership on this critical issue. We look forward to working with you to enact the Harley Jacobson Clinical Trial Participant Income Exemption Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle P. Turnipseed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'D'.

Danielle Turnipseed, JD, MHSA, MPP

Chief Public Policy Officer

cc: David J. Skorton, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer