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June 26, 2012

The Honorable John Sarbanes
U.S. House of Representatives
2444 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sarbanes:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing in support of H.R. 5888, the "Physician Reentry Demonstration Program Act." This federal bill would establish a grant program for eligible medical training entities including academic medical centers, medical schools, and hospitals, to support their physician reentry programs. These entities would be able to use these funds to train and financially assist primary care physicians to successfully reenter clinical practice in designated service sites, including community health centers.

This grant program would not only encourage and aid physicians returning to clinical practice, but would also help alleviate physician shortages and ensure patient access to care.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you to move this important bill forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD