



**ASSOCIATION FOR MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY**  
*Education. Innovation & Improved Patient Care. Advocacy.*  
6120 Executive Blvd., Suite 700, Rockville, MD 20852  
Tel: 301-634-7939 | Fax: 301-634-7995 | [amp@amp.org](mailto:amp@amp.org) | [www.amp.org](http://www.amp.org)

February 26, 2020

The Honorable Tim Scott  
The United States Senate  
104 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Eric Swalwell  
The United States House of Representatives  
407 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema  
The United States Senate  
317 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Emmer  
The United States House of Representatives  
315 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Delivered electronically

Dear Senator Scott, Senator Sinema, Representative Swalwell, and Representative Emmer:

On behalf of the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP), I would like to thank you for forming the bicameral and bipartisan Congressional Personalized Medicine Caucus and for your leadership on issues impacting those that stand to benefit from clinical care informed by molecular testing.

The Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) is an international medical and professional association representing approximately 2,500 physicians, doctoral scientists, and medical technologists who perform or are involved with laboratory testing based on knowledge derived from molecular biology, genetics, and genomics. Membership includes professionals from academic medicine, hospital-based and private clinical laboratories, the government and the in vitro diagnostics industry. AMP members are essential members of the clinical care team and play an important role in both the research and development of these advances and their integration into clinical practice. Through our practice of molecular and genomic laboratory medicine, we provide useful information that guides a patient's treatment and tailors it to ensure the best response, thereby improving health outcomes – a keystone of personalized (or precision) medicine.

The field of personalized medicine is advancing rapidly with over 70,000 genetic laboratory tests already on the market and an average of 14 new tests being added per day.<sup>1</sup> This progress is possible in large part due to historic Congressional investment in and prioritization of genomic research and development including support of the Human Genome Project, which as you know, was an international, collaborative research program with the goal of mapping all human genes. The foundational data gained as a result of this program helped to unleash powerful knowledge leading to

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<sup>1</sup> Concert Genetics. The current landscape of genetic testing: Market growth, reimbursement trends, challenges and opportunities. April 2018 <https://www.concertgenetics.com/resources/2018-current-landscape-genetic-testing/>

the development of more complex genetic tests and new ways to target and treat disease. While we are able to celebrate many accomplishments in the field of personalized medicine, the field continues to evolve and change, and as such, there will continue to be many policy considerations that will significantly impact whether the vision of personalized medicine can be fully realized. For this reason, we greatly appreciate and are encouraged that each of you are committed to ensuring the continued focus of Congress on molecular- and genomic-informed healthcare.

Of particular significance to AMP is that the Caucus seeks to foster conversations about policy that will work to further advance this area. AMP actively engages in numerous policy areas, which include the regulation of laboratory testing, coverage and payment of the services our members provide, and patent eligibility changes that could negatively impact innovation -- we believe that these areas might be ripe for involvement of informed and passionate members of the Caucus. Depending on how they are crafted and implemented, policy creation or updates to these areas could go a long way towards furthering advancements in the field.

Once again, thank you for your leadership. AMP looks forward to working with you on both educational and policy formation efforts and celebrating your accomplishments. We hope you will consider our expert members a resource as you begin your work. Please do not hesitate to contact Tara Burke, AMP Senior Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, at [tburke@amp.org](mailto:tburke@amp.org), if we can be helpful.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Weck, MD, FCAP  
President, Association for Molecular Pathology