



2450 N STREET, NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20037  
PHONE 202-828-0400 FAX 202-828-1125  
HTTP://WWW.AAMC.ORG

June 21, 2001

The Honorable John Kerry  
United States Senate  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

On behalf of the 125 medical schools, over 400 major teaching hospitals, and 90 academic and professional societies represented by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I extend our support for the "Nurse Reinvestment Act" (S 706), which you introduced on April 5, 2001. Your legislation will help generate the new nurses and retain the experienced nurses we need to provide high levels of patient care at our teaching hospitals.

We commend you for creating grants, scholarships, and other programs that will enhance the public image of nurses and make nursing education financially and logistically feasible for more individuals. Your expanded Medicare and Medicaid training payments will help assure that the new generation of nursing students has access to talented and experienced mentors and are well prepared to enter the dynamic teaching hospital environment if they choose that career path.

The legislation's "career ladder" grants will encourage experienced nurses to complete advanced training—an issue of critical importance if teaching hospitals are to continue providing the complex and acute levels of care associated with academic medicine. Finally, the National Nursing Service Corps Scholarship Program and its focus on communities with the greatest staffing shortages will complement the missions of teaching hospitals to ensure healthcare access for all Americans.

The AAMC very much appreciates your leadership in addressing the growing nursing shortage, and we look forward to working with you and your staff to gather support for your legislation. While your proposal will certainly benefit all providers, it will have a particularly beneficial impact on our nation's teaching hospitals.

Sincerely,

Jordan J. Cohen, MD