



ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN
MEDICAL COLLEGES

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

June 21, 2001

The Honorable Tim Hutchinson
United States Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hutchinson:

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 "Nursing Employment and Education Development Act" (S 721), which you introduced on April 5, 2001. Your legislation will help produce the new nurses and retain the experienced nurses our teaching hospitals need to maintain high levels of patient care.

We commend your efforts to enhance the public image of nursing and make it an attractive career option. We also applaud you for creating grants, scholarships, community partnerships, and other programs that will make nursing education financially and logistically feasible for more individuals.

Your programs for nurse faculty development, as well as your internship and residency programs 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 seek advanced training—a critical need if teaching hospitals are to continue providing the complex and acute level of care associated with academic medicine.

We believe the Nurse 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. Finally, your National Commission on the Nursing Crisis will provide the data and expert panel we need to evaluate initiatives to resolve the nursing shortage.

The AAMC 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