



OCT 15 2009

Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Medical Student:

Since 1970, more than 30,000 primary care providers have heeded the call to serve our Nation's most vulnerable populations by serving the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), bringing high-quality health care to places and people without access to even basic health care services. The purpose of this letter is to encourage you to learn more about the benefits of serving in the Corps.

Corps clinicians are a unique group of primary care providers who treat millions of people living in urban and rural communities where health care is scarce. In exchange for this service in an underserved area, the U.S. Government will assist you with repayment of your *bona fide* educational debt (principal and interest).

Administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), as part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the NHSC has more than 3,600 vacancies in underserved areas available for physicians, and this need is expected to grow in the coming years. With additional funding now available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, there has never been a better time to explore the NHSC.

The Corps has two programs to assist you: the *scholarship program* provides payment of tuition and other reasonable academic costs, plus a living stipend, in return for your service in a designated health care shortage area upon graduation. The *loan repayment program* provides immediate academic debt relief for many types of licensed clinicians willing to provide much needed primary care in these same communities.

NHSC practitioners negotiate salary and benefits with approved community health centers, public health department clinics, hospital-affiliated practices, managed care networks, and approved-private practices in underserved areas, so you will earn a competitive salary at the same time that the Corps is servicing your student loan(s).

To learn more about the NHSC and how you can get started with a rewarding career, please take a few minutes to visit our Web site: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/> or call: 1-800-221-9393. As our Nation faces an unparalleled primary care workforce shortage, I am inspired to know so many of you will answer this call to serve.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N.
Administrator

Sincerely,

Kyu Rhee, M.D.
Chief Public Health Officer
NHSC Alumnus