



March 17, 2008

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
722 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inouye:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), I would like to thank you for introducing the *Nurse Managed Health Clinic Investment Act of 2007*.

As the national voice of baccalaureate and graduate nursing education, AACN represents over 620 schools of nursing that educate approximately 260,000 students and employ over 13,000 faculty members. Together, these institutions produce about half of our nation's registered nurses and all of the nurse faculty and researchers.

AACN commends you for your support of Nurse Managed Health Clinics. These clinics not only deliver primary care to thousands of the underserved, but also provide a clinical setting critical to nursing education.

Last year nursing schools turned away 40,285 qualified applications from baccalaureate and graduate programs, in part due to a lack of clinical sites. At a time when our nation faces one of the most severe nursing shortages in history, your bill and your support for nursing education is invaluable. In addition to educating the nurses of tomorrow, Nurse Managed Health Clinics (NMHCs) are a much needed safety-net in today's failing healthcare system—serving those who would not otherwise have access to care. NMHCs provide this service at lower cost than other safety-net clinics, and the preventative care they provide saves millions of dollars each year. In fact, geriatric health promotion and disease prevention programs run by NMHCs help cut annual health care costs by over \$37 million. Unfortunately, despite these tremendous benefits, NMHCs across the country have been forced to close due to the lower reimbursement rates for academically affiliated institutions.

AACN sincerely appreciates your willingness to address this vital issue through the *Nurse Managed Health Clinic Investment Act of 2007*. We look forward to working with you and your staff. We appreciate your strong and consistent support of good health care for Americans including that provided by nurses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanette Lancaster".

Jeanette Lancaster, PhD, RN, FAAN
President

ADVANCING HIGHER EDUCATION IN NURSING