

Political Action Committee Report

(Submitted in advance by e-mail to BQSIMB President and the Secretary on November 13, 2008)

1. The Bill/"The Protecting Our Children Online Act of 2008" was introduced in the House of Representatives on May 22, 2008.

Main purpose/goal: **to include within the certification required for certain schools and libraries** having computers with Internet access that receive services at discounted rates that, **as part of Internet safety policy, the schools and libraries are educating minors about safe online behavior.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, this Act may be cited as the "PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN ONLINE ACT OF 2008".

In Section 2: Requiring Internet safety policy to include education about safe online behavior, Part B says "as part of such Internet safety policy, educate minors about safe online behavior, which may include information about –

‘(i) interacting with other individuals through social networking websites, chat rooms, electronic mail, bulletin boards, instant messaging, and other means of online communication; and

‘(ii) cyberbullying awareness and response; ..."

2. Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Update:

I. Medical Schools Increase Enrollment to Meet Physician Demand: Largest Entering Class in History Includes Notable Gains by Latinos.

Washington, D.C., October 21, 2008—U.S. medical schools continue to expand their enrollment to meet the country's increasing demand for physicians, according to new data released today by the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges). **First-year enrollment at the nation's medical schools this year increased nearly 2 percent over 2007, to more than 18,000 students—the highest enrollment in history.**

In a boon to the medical education community's efforts to increase diversity in medicine, **the number of Latino first-year enrollees rose by more than 10 percent this year;** Latinos represent 7.9 percent of the 2008-09 entering medical school class. **The number of Native American first-year enrollees increased by more than 5 percent,** and the number of African American first-year students remained nearly the same as in 2007. Native Americans and African Americans represent 1.0 and 7.2 percent, respectively, of this year's entering medical school class. Overall, the percentage of women first-year enrollees held steady again this year at about 48 percent.

Many medical schools are beginning to take a holistic approach to reviewing applicants, evaluating them on the basis of their academic and personal achievements and within the context of the opportunities and challenges each has encountered. The applicants to medical school this year were among the most academically qualified in history; AAMC data show an increase in the average undergraduate grade point average (to 3.50) and average MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) scores (to 28.1). Importantly, there was also an increase in the number of applicants who had community service

experience (both clinical and non-clinical) and medical research experience on their premedical resumes.

These data do not reflect the anticipated enrollment at new schools expected to open within the next few years.

II. Washington, D.C., Nov. 11, 2008—The AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) called on Congress today to consider the role U.S. medical schools and teaching hospitals play in the nation's fiscal health as lawmakers develop legislation to stimulate economic recovery.

According to a Tripp Umbach study, released in January 2007, **the combined economic impact of AAMC-member institutions was over \$451 billion. *The nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals accounted for more than 3 million full-time jobs, which means that one out of every 48 wage earners in the U.S. labor force works directly or indirectly for one of these institutions.***

Given the urgent need to preserve and create jobs in the current economic downturn, **the AAMC recommends that the stimulus bill include an additional \$1.9 billion** for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), as well as increased support for VA research facilities, Title VII health professions, the National Health Service Corps, and the country's emergency preparedness and response programs. **In addition, the AAMC is urging Congress to restore Medicare Capital Indirect Medical Education payments, preserve long-standing Medicaid funding for health care safety net providers and graduate medical education (GME), and raise the cap on Medicare GME training slots.**

3. ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) Update:

“Program Director Guide to the Common Program Requirements” are updated as of 09/25/08 and posted on www.acgme.org

“Common Requirements for One-Year Fellowships” are updated and posted on the same site.

November 13, 2008*

* (Prepared & e-mailed by Rimma Perelman, Chair, Political Chair Committee, on this date)