

PROPOSAL OF JOHN F. TOWNSEND

PROPOSAL

By legislation, establish a framework by which the State of Wisconsin would award matching grants to Wisconsin accredited institutions of higher learning for expanding their teaching facilities related to health care.

BACKGROUND

Since the inception of The Special Committee On Health Care Access, the Committee has heard testimony from various groups on the current shortage and projected shortage of trained health care specialists. There are two major factors that are causing the shortages: 1. Health care teaching facilities have not expanded in relationship to the growing need, and 2. An aging population that requires an increasing level of health care services.

MEDICAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

A review of the enrollment of students in various health care specialties gives an indication why there is a current shortage in certain areas and an increasing future shortage if we do not take steps to expand Wisconsin's health care teaching facilities. Wisconsin has two medical schools, UW Madison and Medical College of Wisconsin. The Medical College of Wisconsin has the largest student enrollment. However, over the past 15 years there has been very little growth in their student enrollment. In the 1993 academic year the Medical College of Wisconsin accounted for 66% of the State's total medical school enrollment of 1,777 students. For the academic years 1993 through 2008 the annual average growth in student enrollment for the Medical College of Wisconsin has been 0.28%.

While the student enrollment of UW Medical School is smaller than that of the Medical College of Wisconsin, the average annual increase in enrollment has been higher. In the 1993 academic year the UW Medical School had an enrollment of 600 students, by the 2008 academic year, enrollment had grown to 863, for an average annual increase of 2.45%.

In the 1993 academic year Wisconsin had an enrollment of 1,777 medical students. Wisconsin's medical school enrollment increased to 2,091 for the 2008 academic year, for an average annual increase of 1.09%. This growth paralleled the State's growth in population. The fastest segment of Wisconsin's population is the senior citizen. As the size of this group grows the demand for doctors will grow at an increasing rate.

NURSING STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Nursing is another health care area that has a current shortage of qualified personnel along with a projected growing shortage. Factors affecting the shortage include: 1. Stagnant nursing student enrollment, 2. New career opportunities for females and 3. An aging population

Within Wisconsin, there are several institutions of higher learning that offer nursing curriculums in nursing; however, many of them are private institutions making it difficult to determine the total number of students enrolled in nursing.

In the UW system, the Madison and Milwaukee campuses provide statistics on nursing student enrollment. These statistics give an indication of enrollment trends for the State. For the 1993 academic year the two campuses had an enrollment of 1,499 students. Enrollment for the academic year of 2008 was 1,674, for an average annual growth of 0.74% for the 15 year period. This growth rate is below the population growth rate.

New career opportunities for females may account for the low growth in nursing student enrollment. In the past, career opportunities for females were traditionally confined to secretarial, teaching or nursing. Today, females have less restrictions on career opportunities.

Despite the greater female career opportunities, females still dominate the nursing profession. A recent nursing survey found that 93% of the nurses were females; however, 46% of those in the survey were over the age of 50, indicating that many nurses will soon be retiring, further exacerbating the shortage in a period of an aging population that will increase the demand for nursing.

PHARMACY STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Pharmacists is another area where there is a growing shortage of personnel. The growth in pharmacy student enrollment corresponds with the growth rates of the health care areas discussed in the above paragraphs. In the academic year of 1993, the UW Pharmacy School had an enrollment of 414 students. Enrollment for the academic year of 2008 was 535, for an average annual growth of 1.7% over the 15 year period.

PORPOSAL DETAILS

To meet the demands for qualified health care specialists, Wisconsin must expand its health care teaching facilities. This can be done by establishing a State matching grant program with institutions of higher learning for expanding their health care teaching facilities. Such a program will create a partnership between State Government and teaching institutions. A matching grant program will lessen the pressure on the State to fully fund the expansion of teaching facilities. Teaching institutions can use the matching grant as an incentive for private contributions.

In 2011 introduce legislation that will set up the frame work for a State Matching Grant Program. The legislation will require the establishment of a matching grant mechanism during the 2011/12 biennium. Funding for the matching grants will be provided in the 2013/14 biennium.

Expanding of teaching facilities requires planning and fund raising. During the next biennium, teaching institutions can do their planning, knowing that a matching grant is available, start their fund raising. Their planning efforts will provide information to the State Grant Agency to determine the amount of grants requested for the 2013/14 biennium.

Requirements for institutions of higher learning:

1. Be an accredited institution
2. Offer courses in health care
3. Request for grants be only for expansion of physical facilities
4. Demonstrate the need for expansion of facilities

State requirements:

1. Provide funding in the 2013/14 biennium for matching grants
2. Department of Health Services work with teaching institutions to determine the need for expansion of teaching facilities
3. The Building Commission oversee the matching grants