



American Indian Health and Family Services
Of Southeastern Michigan, Inc.

Minobinmaadziwin "A Good Life"

February 4, 2010

Dr. Barbara K. Redman, Dean
College of Nursing
Wayne State University
5557 Cass Ave, Detroit MI 48202

Dr. Valarie M. Parisi, Interim Dean
School of Medicine
Wayne State University
540 East Canfield Street, Detroit, MI 48201

Dear Dean's Redman and Parisi:

As the Executive Director of the American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeastern Michigan, I am writing you today to give my full and enthusiastic support of Wayne State University's application for the establishment and implementation of an Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program in Michigan.

I am confident Wayne State University will build on its extensive and in-depth network of partnerships with community leaders, organizations and healthcare providers across Michigan to develop community-based, interdisciplinary training programs that address unmet healthcare and workforce needs throughout the state.

Over 80% of Wayne State's graduates already stay and work in the state upon completion of their degrees. This strength makes your institution well developed in experiences in community-based primary care in challenging urban and rural populations. Furthermore, Wayne State's commitment and proven success in obtaining millions of dollars in federal funding for outreach health professional educational training throughout the state bodes well for improving the health of the populations of our underserved communities across Michigan. Placing over 10% of your current student clinical health professional rotations in community health centers is noteworthy as well. The proposed AHEC program will further strengthen the healthcare workforce and benefit ALL Michigan's patients.

It is important to note that exacerbated by Michigan's poor economy, the health statistics in many of our rural and urban communities have worsened. Wayne State is exceptionally well positioned to optimize use of federal, state, local and private resources to develop a sustainable AHEC system for our state.

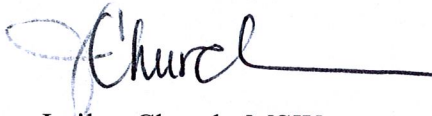
As has been demonstrated in many states, such a system produces major impact on supply, distribution and quality of healthcare professionals and improves health statistics in underserved populations.

The AHEC concept would expand interdisciplinary training and improve the practice environment throughout Michigan's Community Health Centers and provide healthcare professionals with the skills necessary to provide primary and preventive care, transitional care, chronic care management, and other healthcare services appropriate for our underserved population.

Our educational institutions, community leaders and healthcare providers must play a crucial role in any attempts to successfully improve the accessibility, quality and affordability of health care for all Michigan citizens.

American Indian Health and Family Services of Southeastern Michigan stands as a partner in your efforts to create a Michigan AHEC program.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Church". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jerilyn Church, MSW
Executive Director

American Indian Health & Family Services of Southeastern MI