

Board Meeting  
March 26, 2008

**Revised 03/24/25/08**

APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR HEALTHY RETURNS--THE ILLINOIS BILL OF  
HEALTH

Whereas the State's public universities educate and train a substantial number of the physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists and other health professionals who serve the people of Illinois;

Whereas the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is the State's principal educator of health professionals and operates six health sciences colleges, including the nation's largest college of medicine, one of the State's only two colleges of dentistry, colleges of pharmacy, nursing and applied health sciences, and a school of public health;

Whereas UIC maintains its health sciences programs in Chicago, Peoria, Rockford, Urbana-Champaign and the Quad Cities;

Whereas UIC has produced approximately one-sixth of the physicians, one-third of the pharmacists and 44 percent of the dentists practicing in Illinois;

Whereas UIC is among the nation's leaders in producing health professionals from under-represented groups, and with the assistance of its Urban Health Program, ~~and~~ Hispanic Center of Excellence, and the National Center for Rural Health

Professions, it has graduated more than 4,000 minority health professionals during the past three decades;

Whereas the cost to educate health professionals is substantially higher than the average cost to educate undergraduates, graduate and other professional programs' students due in part to the rapid pace of technological advances in the health professions and the need for low faculty-to-student ratios, and this cost differential is not reflected in the current funding model for higher education in Illinois;

Whereas UIC's health professions education infrastructure is aging and in need of significant renovation, and ~~in some cases is no longer suitable~~ soon could become unsuitable for contemporary teaching and training;

Whereas the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago and its related clinics play a vital role in physician education at UIC and in patient care on Chicago's West Side, serving more than 600,000 patient visits a year and is also in great need of expansion and modernization;

Whereas ever-increasing operating costs and lack of funds to re-invest in these facilities ~~might threaten~~ jeopardize the future viability of UIC's health sciences colleges, including recruitment and retention of top faculty, and the continued supply of highly trained health professionals in Illinois;

Whereas the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has called upon medical schools to increase enrollment by 30 percent by 2015 to compensate for the retirement of physicians and to accommodate the health care needs of the aging U.S. population;

Whereas preventing a future shortage of physicians requires immediate action as the total educational and training period from the time of matriculating medical school to entering practice is eight to 12 years ~~for a physician to enter practice once he or she begins medical school;~~

Whereas “Healthy Returns--the Illinois Bill of Health” seeks to create a dedicated stream of funding to help support the high cost of educating and training health professionals at UIC;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois does hereby proclaim its support for “Healthy Returns--the Illinois Bill of Health” to ensure a future supply of highly qualified health professionals to serve the citizens of Illinois, and seeks to secure the following funding:

- Increase operating funds by \$10 million each year over five years, commencing with fiscal year 2009, to stem loss of our top faculty in health sciences, keep tuition in health sciences affordable, avoid cuts in health professions enrollments, ~~prevent further erosion of teaching facilities,~~ provide equipment and technology upgrades in teaching facilities, and allow UIC to continue providing medical and dental care to the community.
- \$10 million to complete the master plan for the University of Illinois Medical Center expansion and renovation.
- To accommodate the AAMC target of expanding enrollment by 20 percent (65 additional medical students per class), increase operating funds by \$5.5 million each year over four years, commencing no later than fiscal year 2013.