



OCT 15 2009

Dear Nurse Practitioner Student:

Since 1970, more than 30,000 primary care providers – nurse practitioners, physicians, dentists, mental health counselors and others – have joined the National Health Service Corps (NHSC). The purpose of this letter is to encourage you to learn more about the benefits of membership.

Corps clinicians are a unique group of primary care providers who care for millions of people living in communities where health care is scarce. In exchange for this service, the U.S. Government will assist you with repayment of some or all of your *bona fide* educational debt (principal and interest).

Administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), as part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the NHSC currently has thousands of openings for qualified clinicians. With additional funding now available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, there has never been a better time to explore the NHSC.

The Corps has two programs to assist you: the *scholarship program* provides payment of tuition and other reasonable academic costs, plus a living stipend, in return for your service in a designated health care shortage area upon graduation. The *loan repayment program* provides immediate academic debt relief for many types of licensed clinicians willing to provide much needed primary care in these same communities. NHSC practitioners are free to negotiate salary and benefits with any approved clinical provider in a designated shortage area, so you will earn a competitive salary at the same time that the Corps is servicing your student loan(s).

To learn more about the NHSC, and how you can get started with a rewarding career, please take a few minutes to visit our Web site: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/> or call: 1-800-221-9393. We look forward to having future nurse practitioners such as yourself as part of the NHSC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary K. Wakefield".

Mary K. Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N.
Administrator