

JOINT STATEMENT

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The High-Priority Need to Initiate Immediate Programs Aimed
at Preparing More Negro Students for Medicine and Allied Fields

Currently there are more than 300,000 physicians in the United States. The number of Negro physicians, *is estimated to be about 6000*, although not specifically known, is not in proportion to the Negro population (22 million). *more or less* All U. S. medical schools *have had at least one* today accept qualified Negro students. Many in fact are actively searching for qualified Negro applicants.

The severity of the problem of attracting Negroes into medicine is evidenced by the fact that during the decade 1955-1964 the number of Negroes obtaining their MD degree (an average of 166 per year) remained static while the total number of graduates increased steadily each year. There has been no significant increase in the number of Negro applicants to medical schools for two decades and the rate of increase actually has declined since 1955. Furthermore, most Negro MD's are compelled by financial problems to enter practice immediately upon completion of their internships. ⁷ Consequently, only a small percentage have sought certification by specialty boards. ⁷

The Liaison Committee of the American Medical Association and the National Medical Association have jointly concluded that it is imperative for medical schools, secondary and elementary schools and other segments of society to implement immediate steps aimed at motivating and academically preparing a greater number of Negro students for careers in medicine.

The difficulty in finding more than a few promising candidates reflects ~~cultural~~ and educational problems stretching back to the quality of instruction in the secondary and primary grades, and that of ~~pre-school training~~ ^{motivation} in the home.

Therefore, the AMA and the NMA conclude that genuine solutions to the problem of increasing the supply of Negro physicians must emanate through improved curriculums, better teaching and specialized courses or training at all school levels for promising Negro students.

The AMA and the NMA urge all medical schools to develop programs in which they can work closely with deans of undergraduate schools to identify potentially qualified candidates for medical school and see that they are given sound, professional guidance in their collegiate preparation.

The two Associations also urge that:

* Special college courses be developed for ~~such~~ students, ^{where needed,}

* Additional scholarship aid be established at both the college and medical school level for Negro students aspiring to enter medicine and allied professions.

* Summer programs of special study be arranged for Negro students about to enter medical school.

^{who may be motivated} ^{who have}
necessary potential but may have academic handicaps.

* Medical schools take innovative steps to salvage those marginally qualified Negro applicants.

* Faculties and curriculums be strengthened at Howard University College of Liberal Arts, and Fisk University, ^{especially} ~~primary~~ ^{which may} ~~be primary~~

sources of students enrolled at the Howard University College of Medicine and Meharry Medical College, the two predominantly Negro medical schools.

* All medical schools encourage ^{be} members of their faculties ^{to make available} to sponsor special projects involving Negro students in laboratory work or other enlightening pursuits to enrich their experiences.

Scholarships as that

to sponsor special projects involving Negro students in laboratory work or other enlightening pursuits to enrich their experiences.

* All medical societies, medical schools and related groups expand their careers programming with students, parents and guidance counselors at schools of all levels to include essential information about the opportunities existing for Negroes in medicine and allied fields and that a special effort be made to assure that this information reaches counselors and students ^{Especially} at the 120 predominantly Negro colleges.

for all Americans in checking

The American Medical Association and the National Medical Association believe that the goal of attaining a greater number of Negro physicians and other Negro health professions can be achieved only through early implementation of the aforementioned measures and other innovative steps that are in the best interests of ^{all Americans in medicine & allied} the Negro race, medicine and the nation.

all predominantly Negro students, No more Veterans also available

professor