

RESOLUTION**TO ADDRESS THE REGION'S HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE SHORTAGE**

WHEREAS, there persists a severe shortage on nurses, allied health professionals and other skilled health care givers throughout the metropolitan Chicago region; and

WHEREAS, health care is a significant driver for the region's economy as it is its third largest source of employment generating \$24 billion in personal income annually for the region's residents; and

WHEREAS, the growing and aging population and the development of new technologies are causing the demand for health care services throughout the region to increase significantly; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of skilled health caregivers is impacting significantly access to care throughout the region as many health care providers are struggling to meet the health care needs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, vacancy rates persists throughout the Metropolitan Chicago region, some in excess of 10 percent, for skilled health caregiver positions such as registered nurses, occupational therapists, MRI technicians, physical therapists, pharmacists, laboratory technicians and many other allied health professionals; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact today there are more than 2,500 vacant hospital positions for registered nurses alone, it is anticipated that an additional 13,500 registered nurses will be needed to meet the region's health care needs in 2020; and

WHEREAS, recent efforts by the state of Illinois to remove barriers for qualified, foreign-trained nurses to practice in Illinois are a good first step, however, there is no quick-fix solutions to solving the workforce shortage; and

WHEREAS, solving the workforce shortage will take a determined and collaborative effort involving local, regional state and the federal governments, hospitals and other health providers, educational institutions, the business community, community-based organizations and others; and

WHEREAS, any collaborative effort should build upon the work already being conducted by the Workforce Boards of Metropolitan Chicago, a consortium of nine workforce boards working to upgrade the skills of existing health care workers; and

WHEREAS, solving the workforce shortage will also require a significant investment of funding, manpower and time to build or expand capacity in health professions training and education programs as well as to attract young people and career changers to pursue a career in health care; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and its members have issued *Caring for the Future: A Plan for Meeting Metropolitan Chicago's Growing Health Care Workforce Needs*, which sets forth a plan to increase by 50 percent the number of registered nurses and other health professionals trained in Illinois by 2010 (about 12,000 health professionals); and

WHEREAS, full implementation of *Caring for the Future* would require an investment by the federal and state governments of as much as \$50 million over a five year period; and

WHEREAS, if the metropolitan Chicago region is to retain its competitive position in the health care industry and continue to meet the health care needs of our communities, action must be taken now to secure our future skilled health care workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by this County Board of McHenry County, Illinois that we do hereby fully support the recommendations for growing our region's health care work force as set forth in *Care for the Future: A Plan for Meeting Metropolitan Chicago's Growing Health Care Workforce Needs*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this County Board of McHenry County, Illinois hereby urges the Illinois congressional delegation and the Illinois General Assembly to pursue legislation that helps further the recommendations of *Caring for the Future*; and

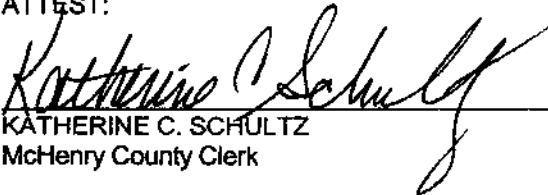
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the McHenry County Clerk is hereby requested to distribute a certified copy of this Resolution to Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, the Members of the Illinois congressional delegation; the Illinois General Assembly; and the McHenry County Administrator.

DATED at Woodstock, Illinois this twentieth day of September, A.D., 2005.



KENNETH D. KOEHLER, Chairman
McHenry County Board

ATTEST:



KATHERINE C. SCHULTZ
McHenry County Clerk