



# American Society for Clinical Pathology

## Statement before the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee on Personnel Shortages

February 20-21, 2008

Chairman Turner, members of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee, my name is Matthew Schulze and I am the Senior Manager for Federal and State Affairs for the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). I am pleased that the Committee has turned its attention to the laboratory workforce shortage. I think this discussion is particularly timely, especially given the growing crisis affecting the educational programs that serve laboratory professionals, including cytotechnologists, and the recruitment of laboratory personnel.

Last week, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee held the first of what ASCP hopes is a series of hearings to highlight the shortages of allied health personnel and the need to reauthorize the Title VII allied health programs. I'd like to ask that ASCP President Lee Hilborne's statement to the Senate HELP Committee be introduced as part of today's official record.

Fixing the shortage problems that is affecting the laboratory workforce will be an up-hill battle but one we believe is solvable. If we are to be successful, this effort will require the combined efforts of all the organizations representing pathology and laboratory medicine. ASCP looks forward to working with our colleagues to address this problem.

ASCP hopes that the initiative taken to address the problems affecting cytotechnology will also spark a collective interest and commitment to reauthorizing the Title VII allied health programs and increasing federal appropriations for those programs that can help address the shortages of laboratory personnel. If we are to successfully address the laboratory workforce shortage, federal funds will likely need to be a key part of the solution.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to address the committee and thank you for addressing this issue.

*ASCP is a nonprofit medical specialty society representing 140,000 members, including board certified pathologists, other physicians, clinical scientists, cytotechnologists, histotechnologists, medical technologists and technicians. As the leading provider of continuing education for pathologists and medical laboratory personnel, ASCP enhances the quality of the profession through comprehensive education programs, publications and self-assessment materials.*