

America's Army in Waiting

January 26, 2009

RE: A Call to Service: We have an **Army In Waiting**
An American Plan for Health Care Reform during Economic Crisis

No country produces more resources for quality health care than the United States. But more than 47 million Americans need insurance, yet do without.

We have the professional service providers able to help them.

We respectfully suggest a simple solution, a notably inexpensive system of care readily available in our communities. Our country has an **Army in Waiting** made of medical doctors, dentists, mental health professionals, medical technicians, and many other trained practitioners already in most communities. A large percentage of them owe substantial amounts on student loans that funded their education. We need reform that is aggressive, open and responsive to America's concerns. We also need to take responsibility for the worth of our efforts and the worth of those we can help.

We can match the needs of those who can't afford health care with the needs of professionals who struggle to pay their debts. Practitioners able to provide free services in their communities are presently available in every town, in every city, in every state throughout America. Their hours volunteered would equal a loan reduction in proportion to their contributions to Americans in need. Registration for participation and management can be held on the local level.

Repaying student loans in exchange for services is not new to this country. However, this opportunity is historically offered to a small number of professionals in specific rural and underserved communities. We can spread this opportunity to needy Americans across the country.

This could help forestall failed loans, boost national health levels, and decrease overall health care costs.

This **Army in Waiting** also includes lawyers, accountants, teachers, and anyone else who can improve the lives and expectations for individuals and communities. These trained professionals are ready to support physical, mental, legal, financial, and educational wellbeing for us all.

We have elected a president committed to return America to our promise. No child should go without health care. And no adult should lack the chance to take part in our national recovery. The **Army in Waiting** needs support and deployment. These times are ready for this.

From two members of the Army in Waiting,

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Cc:

Barack Obama, President of the United States of America
Michelle Obama, First Lady
Joseph Biden, Vice-President of the United States of America
Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State Senator
Edward Kennedy, Massachusetts.
Robert Wexler, U.S. Representative, 19th District
Debbie Wasserman Schultz, U.S. Representative, 20th District
Stacy Ritter, Mayor, Broward County; Commissioner-District 3

(Please note: A copy of the original letter will be sent to Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, designate, upon her confirmation.)