

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Public Testimony Registration

Date: 04/22/2012	Time: 6:00pm
Name: Mukti Parbhoo	Phone: Click here to enter text.
Email: Click here to enter text.	
Organization: American University of the Caribbean	
Agenda Item Number & Subject: VIII-J Texas Medical Clerkships	
Testimony: Oral <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>Written Testimony: I decided to go to AUC after doing much research on Caribbean Medical Schools. Once I decided to attend medical school abroad, I started researching my options and found that AUC was the school that fit my needs. It was the school with the highest stats and end success rate, which is the ultimate goal. I believe that AUC truly prepares students to be successful throughout rotations and residencies. I feel competitive with many of my American medical school counterparts. The opportunity to complete clerkships in Texas would be incredible. My family is a long time resident of Texas and being able to stay in the state with them would be the ideal situation, especially after living so far away. Living abroad has made me realize what a special place Texas has in my heart. I hope to give back to the community that has long supported me and plan on being a healthcare provider in Texas, so starting off there would be optimal.</p>	

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Public Testimony Registration

Date: 04/22/2012	Time: 7:05p
Name: Khurram Khan	Phone: Click here to enter text.
Email: Click here to enter text.	
Organization: American University of Carribbean	
Agenda Item Number & Subject: VIII-J Texas Clinical Rotations	
Testimony: Oral <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>Written Testimony: Hello. First of all, I would like to thank the American University of Carribbean and THECB for giving me and fellow students an opportunity for our voices and opinions to be heard. Getting to do clinical rotations in Texas would be a dream come true. I am a Texas resident and have resided in Texas for the past 13 years. Nothing else would mean more to me than to come back to my home state and start my career here. Obviously, it would be convenient to just come back here and not have to deal with moving far away to start the clinicals. But that is just a very small part of why I believe working here would be great and beneficial. Texas has amongst the best hospitals in the country in any category you can name. Thus the depth and breadth of experience gained from these institutions would be invaluable to students at AUC for the rest of our careers. I am from a small rural town in the state. Texas is dealing with an unprecedented shortage of quality physicians willing provide healthcare. Doing rotations in the state will allow me and scores of my fellow colleagues an excellent opportunity to experience the healthcare system in Texas. This will increase the likelihood for many of us to start our work as physicians here. For me it would mean an opportunity to come back to my small town and serve the people here. I hope these arguments serve as strong evidence of why Texas would be a great place for AUC students to do their clinical rotations.</p>	

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Public Testimony Registration

Date: 4/22/12	Time: 8:30pm
Name: Shane Constable	Phone: Click here to enter text.
Email: Click here to enter text.	
Organization: American University of the Caribbean	
Agenda Item Number & Subject: VIII-J American University of the Caribbean	
Testimony: <p style="text-align: center;">Oral <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Written Testimony: Two years ago when I applied to medical schools in Texas I knew that I was not the most competitive candidate. I had average grades, an average MCAT score and not a tremendous amount of medical experience. What I did have, however, was a passion for helping the underprivileged and serving those in need. One of the greatest needs that I saw in the communities that I volunteered while pursuing my Bachelor’s degree in Texas was medical attention. I am sure that many people are aware of the fact that there are many urban and rural communities across America that do not have access to proper medical care, especially preventative medical care, either because they are too poor or live in remote locations, far away from the nearest clinic or hospital. Fortunately there are doctors dedicated to helping these people and I want to become one of them. AUC gave me the opportunity to come one step closer to fulfilling this goal by allowing me to begin my medical training here in St. Maarten. Just as in any other U.S. school, the work here is rigorous and the courses are challenging. I can truly say that even though I have only been here a short while I have grown remarkably, not only in knowledge but in intellect, creativity and professionalism as well. I believe that if allowed the opportunity to carry out clinical rotations in Texas it would add tremendously to the foundation laid here in St. Maarten. The excellent reputation that Texas medical schools have for producing top quality physicians is a big part of what attracts me to the idea of carrying out my clinical training in Texas. However, another huge part of why I want to do clinical rotations in Texas is simply because I live there. Since moving from Jamaica, I’ve lived Houston for 8 years and went to school in Ft. Worth at Texas Christian University. I have really gotten accustomed to living in Texas to the point where I even have a sense of “Texas pride”. Most of my family: my brother, sister, mother, aunts, uncles and cousins all now reside in Houston and keeping in touch with them is important to me. Most of the organizations that I want to work with in underprivileged areas in the future are also Texas based. Since I do want to work in Texas and serve Texans, I would love the opportunity to continue my medical training in Texas hospitals and I’m sure my fellow Texas residents at AUC feel the same way.</p>	

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Public Testimony Registration

Date: April 22, 2012	Time: 10:30pm
Name: Brittany Ackley	Phone: Click here to enter text.
Email: Click here to enter text.	
Organization: AUC School of Medicine	
Agenda Item Number & Subject: VIII J American University of the Caribbean	
Testimony: Oral <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>Written Testimony: Being a Texas resident, I naturally wanted to attend medical school in Texas. However, when I was rejected from these schools, an opportunity to attend AUC appeared. I readily took it. My time at AUC has been priceless to me. I have learned to be more independent especially with being so far away from home and the familiar. However, along with this independence, I have learned to rely more on my fellow doctors in training and the faculty. AUC has done an excellent job with finding some of the very best professors to teach their students. They have also gone to great lengths to insure that their students do well on Step 1 and succeed in the clinical years. I am so thankful to have gone to a school that truly puts the students and their learning at the top of their priorities. At AUC, I never felt like a number; I felt like a student. The possibility of being able to do rotations in my home state of Texas excites me and every other Texas resident I know. I personally want to end up in Texas when all my schooling is finished. To be closer to home and to be working in some of the best hospitals in the country would be amazing. The quality of care provided by Texas hospitals is unparalleled. If given the opportunity to do clinical rotations in Texas, I know that we AUC students would not disappoint. We will be some of the hardest working students in the hospitals; we have a thirst for knowledge and are out to receive the best medical education possible. I believe Texas would be a great place to further that education.</p>	

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Public Testimony Registration

Date: April 23, 2012	Time: 4:41pm
Name: Nancy W. Dickey, M.D., President, Texas A&M Health Science Center and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, Texas A&M University System	Phone: Click here to enter text.
Email: Click here to enter text.	
Organization: Texas A&M Health Science Center; Texas A&M University System	
Agenda Item Number & Subject: VIII-J	
Testimony: <div style="text-align: center;"> Oral <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> </div>	
<p>Written Testimony: So often in the public policy process, proposals arise that on the surface appear to be designed to improve outcomes in a particular area, when in reality they have serious, unintended consequences. The Coordinating Board Recommendation regarding the American University of the Caribbean for a Certificate of Authority to offer courses in Texas leading to a medical degree is such a proposal.</p> <p>1. Our concerns extend far beyond the 20 students AUC is requesting to come into Texas. Just look to the state of New York where the number of students from these offshore programs now almost equals that of the state's own medical schools. In fact, the Board's proposal threatens the medical education system that has been created by significant and ongoing investment of the Texas Legislature to expand our own state medical schools to produce enough in-state physicians to meet the needs of our growing population, rather than rely on international medical graduates.</p> <p>2. The Coordinating Board attempts to address the very real issues of capacity and cost by limiting AUC to 20 clerkships and prohibiting the AUC clerkships from displacing the clerkships for our Texas medical students. In fact, the recommendation would require AUC to compete directly with our Texas schools by having AUC work exclusively with ACGME residency programs to establish clerkships, rather than directing them to facilities not already engaged in teaching our students. As far as cost, it is not clear that the Coordinating Board can know what the appropriate cost cap should be, nor is it clear if or how AUC will be required to share the details of the financial arrangements between AUC and teaching facilities. In fact, our Texas schools generally do not pay hospitals, which would suggest that the cap would be zero. If that is not the case, how will the cap be set and how will it be monitored?</p> <p>3. Our state medical schools must invest significant expertise and resources to maintain accreditation with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, yet, the AUC, and the swell of offshore schools sure to follow them into our state, will never have to abide by these rigorous standards that insure the integrity and quality of medical education in the United States. Further, the timeline for AUC even pursuing the accreditation that is available to them comes over an eight-year timeframe AFTER the students have arrived. Why would the Coordinating Board promote such a contradiction in the Closing the Gaps goal of Excellence?</p> <p>4. Speaking of Closing the Gaps, our Texas schools have worked hard to increase diversity in our student bodies, through scholarships, enrichment pipeline programs and other efforts, and we are seeing</p>	

improvement. AUC reports a student body with 0% Hispanic students and 2% African American students. Again, where is the consideration of Closing the Gaps, this time in the Participation goal? 5. Finally, why is the Coordinating Board advancing this proposal when we have not yet seen the report on medical education workforce and medical residency capacity for our in-state graduates? At a time when we need meaningful workforce planning from the Board, instead we are seeing a lack of coordination by moving this issue ahead in isolation, with no consideration of the impact on a medical education system that has seen tremendous growth at a time when the healthcare system on which it relies is evolving rapidly and facing multiple challenges.

6. As alluded to in #5, massive changes are anticipated in the healthcare delivery system over the next 5-10 years, and already, many of the healthcare facilities that currently open their doors to medical students are intimating that there may be reductions in their ability to educate the current numbers, which means that we must continually be expanding our teaching networks to meet both current and future needs. This seems a particularly inauspicious time to open the state-supported system to a set of outside students at a time when the capacity for our own students remains unclear.

7. Given these and the many other issues that have been raised and should be addressed, it would make sense to allow this to be vetted further, not just in terms of what AUC wants, but in terms of what is best for the state as well as the implications for the future of our Texas students and schools.

Please email this form to Judy.Schooling@thecb.state.tx.us

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Public Testimony Registration

Date: 04/23/2012	Time: 9:37pm
Name: Khushbu Patel	Phone: Click here to enter text.
Email:	
Organization: Representing myself.	
Agenda Item Number & Subject: Agenda Item J	
Testimony: Oral <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Written Testimony: I intend to give this as an oral speech. <p> Hello, my name is Khushbu Patel. I was born and raised in Houston, Texas and I currently reside in the 7th district under Texas State Senator Dan Patrick and Texas State Representative Allen Fletcher. I graduated from Langham Creek High School in 2006. As a high school student, my dream of becoming a doctor began to take hold when I volunteered at hospitals and nursing homes. During my junior year, I was selected to attend the Texas Girls State Program and was subsequently chosen to represent the state of Texas at Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. The privilege of meeting senators, representatives, and the former President George W. Bush convinced me that public service was another important avenue for impacting people's lives, so I chose government as an additional field of study in college, but science remained my primary passion. I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2010 with a double major in microbiology B.S. and government B.A. American University of the Caribbean, School of Medicine was the right choice for me for numerous reasons. The facilities are on par with US medical schools and the education that I have received thus far has been second to none. AUC offered a wide variety of extracurricular and research opportunities, which I took full advantage of. Myself and 5 other students, under the supervision of Dr. Shupe, conducted A Study of Bacterial Carriage and Co-Carriage of Three Major Pathogens of the Respiratory Tract. Our research was submitted to and accepted for International Scientific Exchange at the 15th International Conference for Infectious Diseases in Bangkok, Thailand. We are continuing our research and working on publishing it sometime this year. I was the secretary and president of an organization called Diversity Council and I was the historian of Phi Chi Medical fraternity. I was also chosen to be an Anatomy Teaching Assistant. Students at AUC not only focused on academics but were given the opportunity to give back to the community through service. At Community Action Day, we volunteered at The Diabetes and HIV Foundations, and numerous other community programs. At the culmination of my basic science, I was inducted into Alpha Omega Phi Service and Honor Society, and as a member of the American Medical Student Association, we were given the opportunity to learn how to perfect the technique of suturing and phlebotomy. The irreplaceable faculty, unique learning experience, exceptional education, plethora of extracurricular organizations, service, research and teaching assistant opportunities that AUC offered me will make me into an exceptional physician. These distinct characteristics make AUC graduates an invaluable addition to the medical community here in Texas. As the world's population increases, so does the need for </p>	

qualified medical personnel. Even today, the United States, the most industrialized nation in the world, has rural areas that have significantly fewer medical professionals per capita when compared to its urban counterparts. I want to come home to Texas to, not only, complete my residency, but eventually settle here as a Physician, however the inability to do rotations and network with physicians here limits my opportunity to come home to Texas. AUC students from Texas are motivated, willing and capable of helping to meet the need for doctors in our home state, we now need your help. I hope that each and every one of you to help allow my dreams and every Texan currently at AUC to fulfill their dreams of coming home to Texas. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please email this form to Judy.Schooling@thecb.state.tx.us

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
Public Testimony Registration

Date: 4/23/12	Time: 10:04pm EST 9:04 CST
Name: Zachary Lipowski	Phone:
Email:	
Organization: Individual	
Agenda Item Number & Subject: 4/25/12 Meeting, Agenda Item J, AUC Certificate of Authority to offer courses in Texas leading to a medical degree.	
Testimony: Oral <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Written Testimony:

- Good afternoon, for the record my name is Zachary Lipowski and I am representing myself.

I am currently a 3rd year medical student at American University of the Caribbean. I recently arrived back in the United States after completing basic medical sciences, and plan to take my Step 1 exam in June and start clinicals in August. Unfortunately, there are no clinical spots available in Texas for me, requiring that I proceed with my medical education in other states, away from my family and home.

I've lived almost my entire life in two cities in Texas, Katy and Houston. From elementary school to my graduation from Cinco Ranch High School I've attended Texas public schools. My mother was born in Hereford, Texas, a proud town that I fondly remember as having more cattle than people. She has been a nurse for 15 years, and a nurse anesthetist for 18 years, serving entirely the communities of Texas. I grew up listening to her stories from the hospital, and she is a large reason why I decided to become a doctor. My parents divorced almost a decade ago, and she lives by herself. I was hesitant at first to attend AUC and leave her, but any reluctance on my part was equally matched by a mother's resolve to see her child advance academically and professionally in the world.

I applied to almost all Texas medical schools, but it is a fact of life that the number of Texas residents desiring to become doctors vastly outnumbers the spots in Texas medical schools. You do not have to look farther than AUC and the number of Texas residents that attend to understand this disparity. Or simply walk into one of our lecture halls and I'm sure you will catch a glimpse of a University of Texas hoodie, and you will no doubt overhear the utterance of "y'all," much to the dismay of my northern classmates.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity AUC has given me. I am constantly humbled by the intelligence and perseverance of my fellow peers. The faculty have a singular goal to help students understand the material, which has resulted in my supreme confidence in showing up the first day of clinicals and being secure not only in medical knowledge, but in my ability to interview patients and perform physical exams.

Talking amongst my fellow Texans, it is clear that one thing we all share in common is a strong desire to have access to 3rd and 4th year clinical clerkships in Texas. For me, that desire comes from two ideas that inseparably intertwine me with Texas: family and providence. Providence in that Texas is where I've been raised and educated, and as I grow older I increasingly appreciate the opportunities I have been given by the communities that sheltered me, and I feel a sense of obligation to return and serve these areas, giving back in part what I have been given.

Similarly, the idea of family because Texas is where my family has always made its home, and as I've come to learn in my two years, medical school can be extremely stressful and lonely, and having nearby family support is a medicine all its own. And maybe, in my own way, I just want the chance to reciprocate and come home and tell my mom stories from the hospital for once.

The truth is, I do not wish to deprive any Texas resident of educational opportunities. I simply want the chance to continue my medical education near my family and home, and to learn, grow, and serve in the communities of the great state of Texas. Thank you.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Public Testimony Registration

Date: April 24, 2012	Time: 7:27 a.m.
Name: Neil Parikh	Phone:
Email: Click here to enter text.	
Organization: Texas Medical Association Medical Student Section	
Agenda Item Number & Subject: VIII-J American University of the Caribbean Request for a Certificate of Authority to Offer Classes Leading to a Medical Degree	
Testimony: Oral <input type="checkbox"/> Written <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>Written Testimony:</p> <p>Dear Chairman Heldenfels:</p> <p>On behalf of the future physician workforce of Texas, the Texas Medical Association Medical Student Section leaders wish to voice our concern about the proposal to allow the American University of the Caribbean to secure third and fourth year core clerkship opportunities in Texas hospitals. The supply of faculty to supervise the rapidly growing medical student population in Texas is already scarce, but if compounded by competition from students at Caribbean medical schools, the result would make for a disastrous situation. What is more, the act of “buying opportunity” raises deeper concerns about the principles of ethical medicine and taints the patient-centered rather than profit-centered model of care that we proudly strive to achieve.</p> <p>Consequently, this decision not only affects medical students, but more importantly Texas patients. Texas has consistently taken pride in attracting the country’s finest talent for medical school, many of whom end up establishing their lives in Texas as a result. While the quality of our faculty and programs speak for themselves, we cannot ignore the subsidized tuition rates (half the national average) as a major selling point for attracting the best and brightest. With new cuts in funding to medical education as determined by the Texas Legislature, we will not be able to subsidize tuition any longer with sudden additional expenditures. A bidding war with Caribbean medical schools vying for space in our teaching hospitals would do precisely that. Furthermore, in auctioning away seats in Texas hospitals, we would be compromising the principles of integrity, honesty, and professionalism that embody the highest standards of medicine. The irony would be as striking as it is bleak.</p> <p>Even from a logistical standpoint, our current physician shortage in Texas (especially our rural, underserved areas) requires rapid growth in the number of medical school spots – impossible with fierce competition for our already precious scarcity of faculty. Unfortunately, we cannot maintain the current setup with our teaching hospitals and then just “add-on” students to existing teams and services. The clerkship is not a passive process, in which students simply observe their preceptors. Rather, the clerkship is an interactive experience where students take on responsibility of caring for patients and learn the skills to become competent clinicians – all while being guided 100% of the way. This requires small group didactic sessions, emphasizing teaching points on rounds, reviewing history and physical write-ups, and double-checking everything a student does to ensure patient safety. Even the addition of one student to an Internal Medicine/Surgery/OB-GYN/etc service would impair the productivity of the</p>	

team and reduce the learning experience of the other students – fewer patients seen, surgeries scrubbed in on, babies delivered, etc.

We kindly ask to have the interests of Texas patients put first. This means not only expanding the physician workforce in Texas, but also maintaining the excellent quality of education made possible by faculty educators today. This “business proposal” made by the American University of the Caribbean sets a precedent that blocks both goals and truly harms the patients served in our great state.

Sincerely Concerned,

Your Future Texas Doctors

Please email this form to Judy.Schooling@theccb.state.tx.us