## A is the Uniqueness – There is no doctor shortage Kaiser writes

**Advisory Board Company** and **Kaiser Family Foundation** 11/23/**08 “**U.S. Medical School Enrollment Reaches Record High; Enrollment Up Among Hispanic Students**”** <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/126524.php>

**Medical school enrollment in 2008 increased** 1.6% over last year**, resulting in a record-high 18,036 first-year medical students,** according to a study by the Association of American Medical Colleges, Bloomberg reports. The study found **that the total number of applicants reached 42,315 and the nearly 32,000 first-time applicants also was a record high**. According to the study, 11 U.S. medical schools increased enrollment by at least 10% from last year (Staley, Bloomberg, 10/21). Since 2003, first-year enrollment has increased by 10% or more in 49 U.S. medical schools, according to the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Another 18 medical schools have increased by at least 5%. Darrell Kirch, AAMC's president and CEO, attributes the growth to a higher capacity at medical schools and the establishment of new branch campuses across the country (Park, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 10/22). Dan Scheirer, associate dean at Duke University's Trinity College, said the medical profession seems attractive to potential applicants because of **depictions in popular culture, such as the television shows "House" and "Grey's Anatomy**." In addition, Scheirer said **the Iraq war and the Sept. 11 attacks have shaped applicants' world view.** Applicants "are **in a world that is changing and scary and unstable** and **they see medicine as a stable career,"** Scheirer said, adding, "It is a way of working out anxiety and doing something for the benefit of mankind" (Bloomberg, 10/21).

**B is the Link** A universal HC plan would significantly increase a need for doctors that can’t be met within the US

San Francisco Chronicle, Spyros **Andreopoulos**, December 21, 20**08**, http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/12/21/INC814PD9M.DTL&hw=primaries&sn=004&sc=831

President-elect Barack Obama has promised to **expand[ing] health insurance coverage for everybody**. But fulfilling this promise **will require enough doctors on the firing line** - internists, family doctors, pediatricians, gerontologists and others - **to treat the additional people covered**. Primary care is a part of **the total healthcare system,** and the Obama administration must craft a national health manpower policy to provide resources and reverse primary care's decline. Studies show that the number of medical students choosing training in internal medicine, family medicine and geriatrics is down, and many physicians now in practice are leaving the field. Reasons cited include long working hours, the complexity of dealing with chronically ill patients, paperwork, insurance issues and reduced reimbursement by insurers and Medicare. A total of 56 million Americans - roughly 1 in 5 - lack adequate primary care coverage because of a shortage of physicians in their communities, according to the National Association of Community Health Centers. When large numbers of people cannot get basic preventive care or early treatment for conditions before they become serious, costs go up, and everybody ends up paying higher insurance premiums and suffering reduced access to care. Conservative estimates by the University of Missouri and the federal Health Resources and Services Administration suggest that Obama's health plan **will increase the workload of existing primary care physicians by 29 percent** between now and the next 15 years. By the same period, the supply of primary care physicians will rise by only 7 percent, **leading to a shortfall of 35,000 to 44,000 primary care physicians** who treat adults. Overall population growth and a growing elderly population are driving the projected shortfall.

**C is the impact**

## The internal link is that-

## The US will recruit doctors from developing nations

**Coombes**, **2005** http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/330/7497/923-b?etoc

Entire African countries are being left with less than 500 doctors each because of the ongoing "brain drain" of healthcare staff to the developed world. **Developed countries find it cheaper to recruit from abroad than to train enough of their own citizens**, delegates were told at a BMA conference last week. The meeting of delegates from the United States, Canada, Africa, the Commonwealth, and the United Kingdom was convened to discuss the growing crisis in developing countries caused by the escalating migration of doctors and nurses. James Johnson, chairman of BMA council, criticised developed nations for failing to make adequate provision for their own needs: "The number of healthcare workers in many African countries is actually shrinking. **The effect of this brain drain on the health of those in developing countries is incalculable and catastrophic**. There is literally in some parts of these countries no health care of any sort."

## The internal link is that-

## BRAIN DRAIN UNDERMINES AFRICA’S ABILITY TO COMBAT AIDS AND REACH THE MDGS Scott et al

Mark L. Scott et al, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, 2004, Medical Journal of Australia, Volume 180 (4), p. 174 (HARVAF4166)

**THE MIGRATION OF HIGHLY SKILLED PROFESSIONALS from poor to rich countries is not a new phenomenon. The losses attributed to this global migration, commonly referred to as “brain drain”, have been recognised internationally since the 1960s. This migration has had particularly serious ramifications in sub-Saharan Africa, where it severely limits the provision of even basic health services** infrastructure. One study has commented that “the haemorrhage of health professionals from African countries is easily the single most serious human resource problem facing health ministries today”. The Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr Lee Jong-wook, has said that **brain drain from Africa is severely limiting the ability of health workers to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic** and achieve any substantial progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

## Brain Drain widens the gap in health inequalities world wide and oppresses third world countreis

**Pang et al** [Research Policy and Cooperation, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, INCLEN Trust, Manila, Philippines,  London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, BMJ “ Brain Drain and Health Professionals”]

**Migration of medical professionals from developing countries has become a major concern. This brain drain worsens the alreadydepleted healthcare resources in poor countries and widens thegap in health inequities worldwide**. It is time that internationalorganisations collaborated to protect the value of this "intellectualproperty": where medical professionals cannot be dissuaded frommoving, the country that trained them should at least gain fromtheirmovement.