


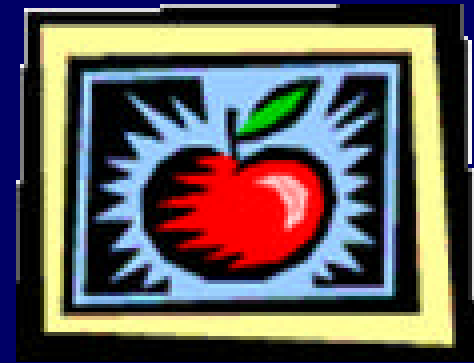


Legislative Solutions
to the
Laboratory Workforce Shortage



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American Society for Clinical Pathology

Two Approaches



Laboratory Budget Issues



- CPI Update
- Copayments & Competitive Bidding
- Specimen Collection Fee
- Physician Payment Update
- Regulatory Reform

Focus on Education

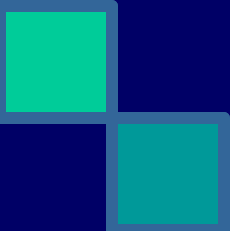



- Allied Health Project Grants

- Title VII, Public Health Service Act
- Attract professionals to field and underserved communities
- Proven success



Allied Health Project Grants

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- “Such sums”
 - \$9.49 million - FY 2002
 - \$0 – FY 2003 ???
- 

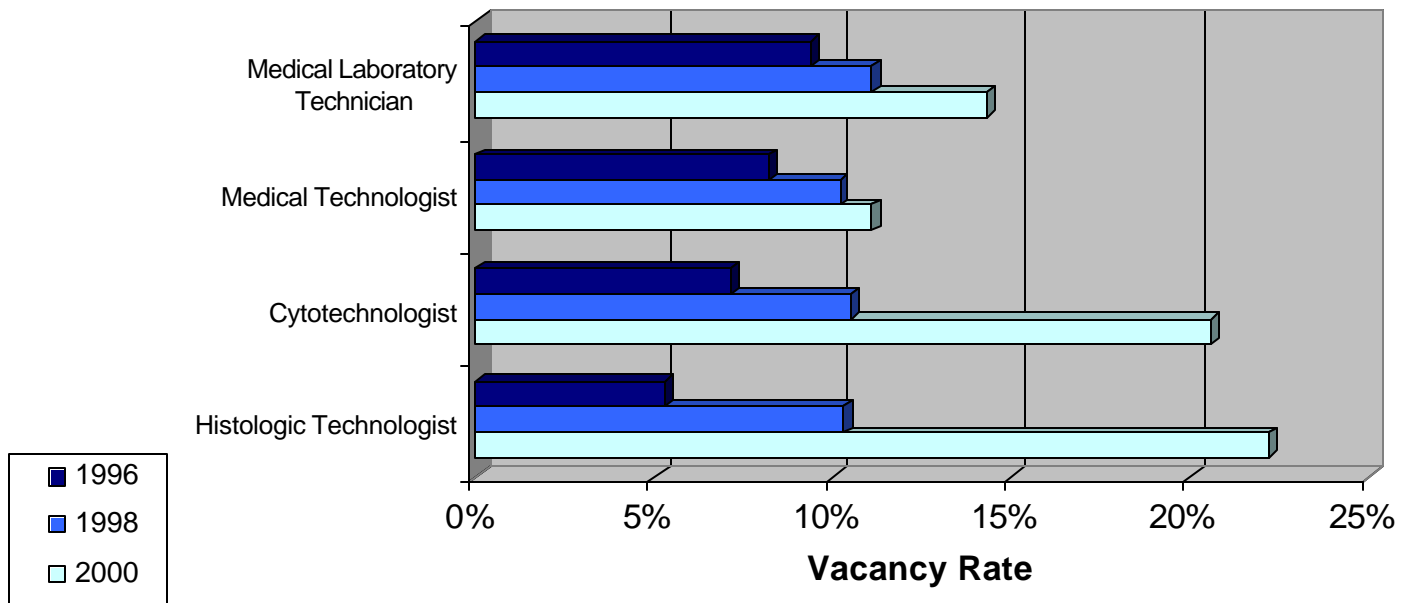


The Shortage

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- ASCP Board of Registry & MORPACE
Wage and Vacancy Survey March 2001
 - General Accounting Office Nov 2001
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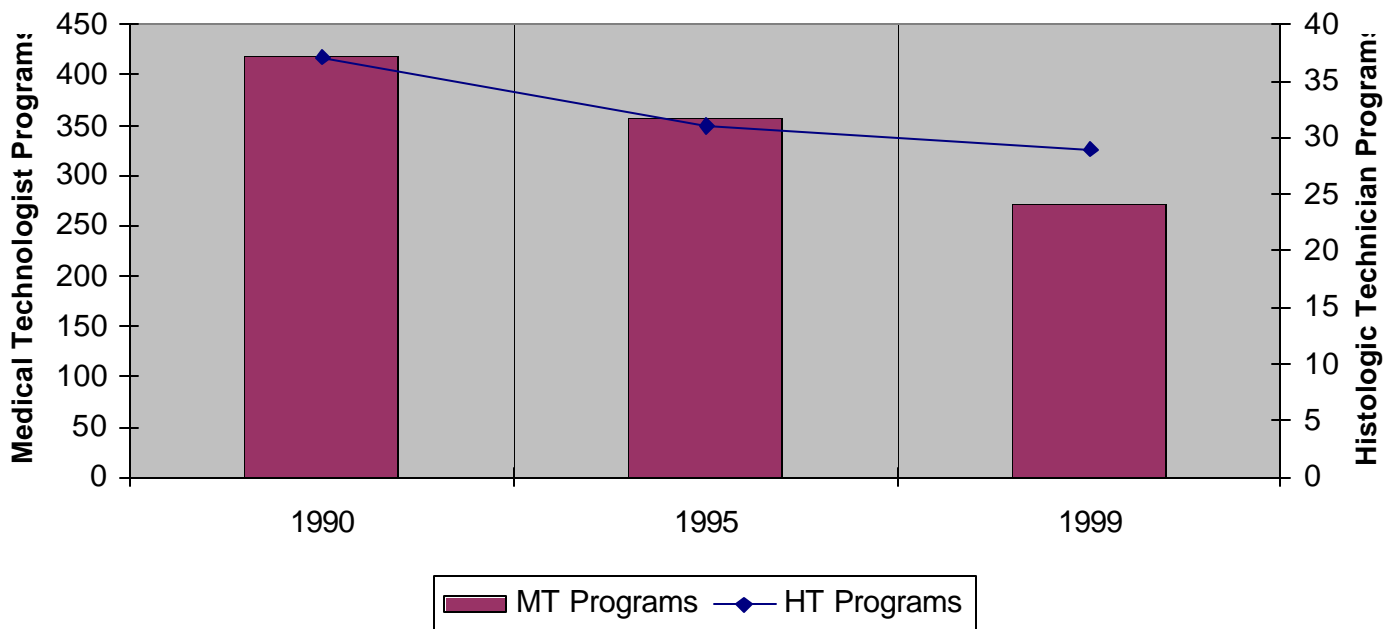
In wake of the decline of medical technology education program enrollees, GAO noted that the overall supply of workers may be affected in coming years. "While little is known about recent trends in the utilization of laboratory services, demand is expected to rise as the U.S. population ages," the agency contended.

Vacancy Rate Percentages For Medical Laboratory Professions

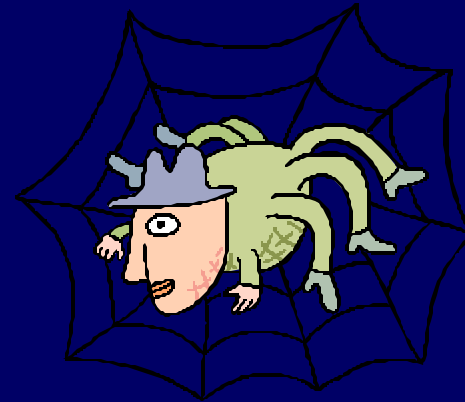
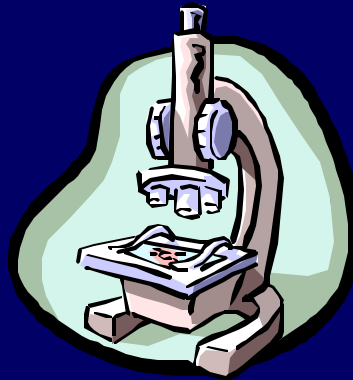


Source: 1996, 1998, 2000 Wage and Vacancy Survey. From ASCP Board of Registry, Chicago, IL, and Morpace International, Detroit, MI.

Accredited Medical Laboratory Technology Programs

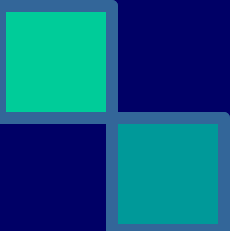



Additional Concerns






Seeking Solutions

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- Fall 2000 – ASCP Proposal
 - Focus on Laboratory Personnel Needs
 - No new programs
 - Education
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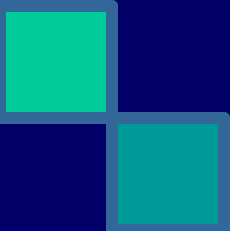



Medical Laboratory Personnel Shortage Act of 2001

- Reps. John Shimkus, Jesse Jackson, Jr., Michael Bilirakis, Sherrod Brown
 - HR 1948
 - Over 40 bipartisan cosponsors
 - Focus on laboratory personnel
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HR 1948

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- National Health Service Corps
 - Allied Health Project Grants
 - Breast and Cervical Cancer
 - Public Health Improvement Act
 - NHLBI
- 

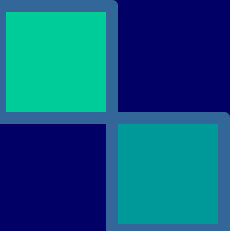

HR 1948 - Action

- Thousands of letters, phone calls, emails
- Joint letters to Congress
- Testimonies & statements
- Hundreds of visits



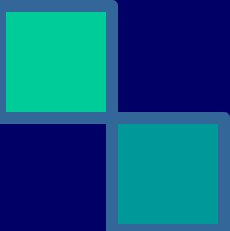


HR 1948 - Accomplishments


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- “Laboratory techs are on par with nurses”
 - Congressional recognition
 - Appropriations increase/recognition
 - Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act
- 



Bioterrorism Law




The Secretary may make awards of grants and cooperative agreements to appropriate public and nonprofit private health or educational entities, including health professions schools and programs as defined in section 799B, for the purpose of providing low-interest loans, partial scholarships, partial fellowships, revolving loan funds, or other cost-sharing forms of assistance for the education and training of individuals in any category of health professions for which there is a shortage that the Secretary determines should be alleviated in order to prepare for or respond effectively to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.



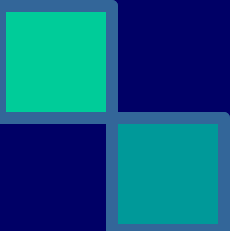



A State Approach

- California SB 1809
 - MLTs able to practice
 - Governor signed!
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For CLIAC Consideration

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- HHS Strategic Plan
 - Importance of Education Funding
 - Patient Safety
- 



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