



PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS-USA, INC.
(PAMET-USA, INC.)

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National Position Paper

PAMET-USA, Inc. is an organization, composed of Filipino-American Medical Laboratory Scientists spread out into 25 different States of America, who play a very important role in your healthcare and are responsible for conducting tests that provide crucial information for detecting, diagnosing, treating, and monitoring disease.

Despite changes in the field, including technological advances that can automate some tasks, the need for laboratory professionals, is expected to grow much faster than the average employment by 11% between 2020 to 2030. By 2030, it is estimated about 372,000 job openings will face short due to supply of the average 5,000 students graduating from different programs. Declining academic programs and inadequate training facilities, compounded by the increasing number of baby boomers' retirement, the crisis to meet the growing demand for certified and licensed Medical Laboratory Professionals have intensified the challenge to address the shortage.

The COVID-19 pandemic had created a bigger dent to this challenge. Although, this pandemic highlighted the importance of our profession in the overall patient care, there is not enough workforce to supply the demand to perform COVID-19 testing. This shortage resulted to laboratories manned by staff who are not competent to perform high complexity testing, such as those used for COVID-19. This greatly compromises patient care.

Medical conditions (i.e., Cancer, Diabetes, and Kidney Failure) require regular laboratory procedures to diagnose and treat them. New and more complex laboratory tests, (e.g., Molecular Testing, Gene Sequencing & Mass Spectrometry) are being developed that will assist in diagnosing existing and new medical conditions, but require specialized knowledge, training, and experience to perform the testing.

The long standing and growing shortage for competent Medical Laboratory Scientist must be addressed now. We cannot afford to have unlicensed or inexperienced laboratory personnel running the laboratory. It is not right; it is against the law, and it puts our patients at great risk.

We, PAMET-USA, Inc., advocate legislative and regulatory issues that impact laboratories, our profession and ultimately our patients. In collaboration with other allied health organizations, we advocate the following:

1. Allied Health Care Professional Shortage Act
2. Federal funding to increase the number of medical lab scientists
 - Expand clinical science programs and increase training facilities
 - Provide financial aid, grants and/or scholarships to students
 - Student loan repayment assistance programs

In addition, our organization also supports legislation to expedite immigration of foreign certified and licensed Medical Laboratory Scientists from the Philippines.

Signed by:

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