Dear NAACLS advocate,

The letter on the following page serves as a template to assist you in advocating to continue support of your laboratory science program. You may use this document as a guide by filling in the blanks to tailor it specifically to your program. Alternatively, you can use it as an inspiration when drafting your own letter.

The template is designed to help you effectively communicate with your administration and persuade them to keep your program open. Please ensure you have included references to support the data you include in your letter and double-check that all blanks are thoroughly completed or removed before sending it off.

Thank you for your dedication and support in preserving the integrity of our programs.

Sincerely,

NAACLS Staff

National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences

5600 N. River Road, Suite 720, Rosemont, IL 60018

[www.naacls.org](https://url.emailprotection.link/?bIUYNu355eq4PhXsV2B1QNwok2Witl-82W-Jz6cdOAtc1jjb4SQ1wjeF4eDicdyzeCwRD5X_-IFT77UGDxHMySw~~)  |  [programservices@naacls.org](mailto:programservices@naacls.org) |  773.714.8880

*<Include official organization letterhead and logo>*

Dear <*Dean, Director, CEO, etc.*>,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed closure of the <Program Name> at *<Institution name>*. The graduates of this program, with their unique blend of theoretical knowledge and practical skills, play an indispensable role in healthcare. The potential closure of this program presents a critical challenge, as it would significantly impact the healthcare system's ability to meet the urgent demand for <*Program Type*> programs are vital to addressing the nationwide shortage of educated <*laboratory title*>.

Laboratory tests are fundamental to modern healthcare, with over 13 billion assays performed annually, influencing approximately 70% of all medical decisions. The demand for <*laboratory title*> professionals continues to grow, yet there is a severe workforce shortage that is straining healthcare systems nationwide. This shortage cannot be mitigated by training non-MLS personnel on the job, as these individuals may lack the specialized education and competencies required for high-quality, accurate laboratory work critical to patient care.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the aging population will significantly increase the need for medical testing, leading to an estimated 24,200 job openings annually, primarily due to retirements and workforce attrition. Yet, in 2023, NAACLS reported only around 4,200 students graduated from accredited MLS programs, with an additional 2,600 graduating from medical laboratory technician (MLT) programs.

Closing *<Program Name>* would result in a nearly *<Percent or absolute number>* reduction in graduates for the region, which would directly and negatively impact on the local healthcare system. Notably, <*laboratory title*> have a <*percent*> employment rate, underscoring the demand for graduates and the essential roles they play in hospitals, clinics, and research laboratories. The loss of such a successful program would be a significant blow to the healthcare sector, exacerbating the laboratory workforce crisis and weakening the pipeline of qualified professionals, ultimately affecting patient care and healthcare outcomes regionally and nationally.

Discontinuing the *<Program Type>* at *<Institution name>* would deprive future students of these opportunities and diminish the university's contribution to the healthcare workforce. The loss of this program would create a void in expertise that would be difficult, if not impossible, to fill. I strongly urge reconsideration of this proposal to ensure the continued success of the program and the health of communities.

Sincerely,

*<Name, title, and contact information for author>*