Dear NAACLS advocate,

The letter on the following page serves as a template to assist you in advocating to establish a laboratory science program at your institution. You may use this document as a guide by filling in the blanks to tailor it specifically to your proposal. 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 present a compelling case for initiating a new program. 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 commitment to advancing education and promoting innovation within the field of laboratory sciences.

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 strong support for the development of a new *<Program Type>* at *<Institution name>.* A *<Program Type>* program would play a crucial role in addressing the growing need for skilled <*laboratory title*> professionals. As the demand for high quality clinical laboratory science experts continues to rise, ensuring a steady pipeline of educated laboratory personnel is essential to maintaining patient care standards and supporting the broader healthcare system.

Graduates of a *<Program Type>* program, with their specialized blend of theoretical knowledge and practical skills, play an indispensable role in healthcare. Establishing a *<Program Type>* would help alleviate a critical workforce challenge by addressing the urgent need for qualified professionals. Expanding educational opportunities is essential to strengthening the future of laboratory medicine and ensuring continued excellence in patient care.

Laboratory testing is fundamental to modern healthcare, with over 13 billion assays performed annually, influencing approximately 70% of all medical decisions, yet there is a severe workforce shortage that is straining healthcare systems nationwide. This gap 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 that is critical to patient outcomes.

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.

Based on data from *<source>,* opening a *<Program Type>* would result in *<Percent or absolute number>* increase in graduates within the region, which would directly and positively impact the local healthcare system. Notably, <*laboratory title*>, nationwide <*laboratory title*> have a *<Percent>* employment rate, underscoring the critical demand for graduates and the essential roles they play in hospitals, clinics, and research laboratories. Implementing a program would be a significant boon to the healthcare sector, helping to alleviate the laboratory workforce crisis and strengthening the pipeline of qualified professionals, ultimately affecting patient care and healthcare outcomes regionally and nationally.

I strongly encourage you to consider the creation of a *<Program Type>* at *<Institution name>.* This initiative would provide future students with meaningful career opportunities, enhance the university's role in addressing the healthcare workforce shortage, and ultimately contribute to improved patient safety and public health in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and explore how we can make this program a reality.

Sincerely,

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