

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Robert L. Beran, Ph.D., Executive Director  
National Resident Matching Program  
202-828-0251 or [rberan@aamc.org](mailto:rberan@aamc.org)

Thomas Campbell, lead counsel  
Gardner Carton Douglas  
312-569-1356 or [tcampbell@gcd.com](mailto:tcampbell@gcd.com)

## National Resident Matching Program Hails Legislation on Antitrust Status

*Congress recognizes key role of Match and confirms that it does not violate the antitrust laws*

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 8, 2004 – The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) strongly supports legislation approved by Congress that makes it clear that medical matching programs do not violate the antitrust laws. The legislation includes Congressional findings that describe the Match as a “highly efficient, pro-competitive and long-standing process” that “has effectively served the interests of medical students, teaching hospitals, and patients for over half a century.” The findings also recognize that the NRMP’s “matching programs have been an integral part of an educational system that has produced the finest physicians and medical researchers in the world.”

This legislation, H.R. 3108, was approved by the U.S. Senate on April 8, 2004. The U.S. House of Representatives approved the same bill on April 2, 2004. It confirms that the antitrust laws do not prohibit sponsoring, conducting or participating in graduate medical matching programs like the NRMP’s Match.

The NRMP runs the Match, which matches medical students with residency programs, based on the stated preferences of each. In March, 25,246 students and other applicants participated in the 2004 Match. The Match has been facilitating the choices of students and residency programs for over 50 years.

“We are pleased that Congress acknowledges the special role the Match plays in medical education,” said James Taylor, President of the NRMP Board of Directors.

“This legislation explicitly clarifies that the Match is not a violation of federal antitrust law,” said Thomas Campbell of the Chicago law firm Gardner, Carton and Douglas, lead counsel for the NRMP. “We are delighted with this support from Congress.”

**About the NRMP**

*The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) is a private, not-for-profit corporation established in 1953 to provide a uniform date of appointment to positions in graduate medical education (GME) in the United States. Five organizations sponsor the NRMP: the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), the*

*Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS).*

*The NRMP also established a Web site to explain and promote the benefits of the Match, [www.savethematch.org](http://www.savethematch.org).*

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