

October 23, 1972

Dr. W. Albert Sullivan
Medical School Admissions Committee
1350 Mayo
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Dear Al: Sullivan

I would be grateful if you would drop me a note acknowledging the documentary information I sent on the candidacy of Doug Thorsen for medical school. Will all of my communications be reviewed by the admissions committee? Do you still consider Mr. Thorsen at an automatic competitive disadvantage?

I have learned that Mr. Thorsen is fully expected to graduate, probably with honors, in June 1973. This,,plus his outstanding and mature contributions to medical research I find difficult to reconcile with any policy of automatic disadvantage.

You recognize, of course, that I am a bit embarrassed at taking an advocacy position here. All previous medical school candidates I have recommended have had no such apparent "automatic disadvantage." All have committed themselves well. On one or two I have had grateful messages, from Mead Cavert, for the helpful content of the documentation I provided.

This candidate is of the most outstanding quality and you understand that my chief concern is that Minnesota will lose this outstanding scientist for a possibly doctrinaire reason. I want very much to see him remain in the state which has given him such a fine preparation to date and to which he has so much to offer.

He is working out plans for an M.D.-Ph.D. program. I would much appreciate your contacting him and advising him on how this might best be integrated with either his '73 or '74 candidacy for medical school.

Please let me hear from you.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor and Director, and
Professor of Medicine

HB/rs