



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control  
Atlanta GA 30333

Your File: 8154030004

JUN 20 1986

JUN 17 1986

The Honorable Rudy Boschwitz  
United States Senator  
210 Bremer Building  
419 North Robert Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

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is

Dear Senator Boschwitz:

Thank you for your letter of June 2 to Dr. Steven L. Solomon supporting the University of Minnesota's proposal for a Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

Eligible applicants to this program include Schools of Public Health, Schools of Medicine, and Schools of Osteopathy. As mandated by the authorizing legislation for this program, the Centers for Disease Control has developed peer review procedures to ensure that each application will receive impartial and objective consideration and be ranked based on a rigorous scientific evaluation of its content.

In addition to scientific merit, the peer review will include consideration of the extent to which eligibility requirements are satisfied and the overall quality of the operational methods proposed within a particular institutional setting. A Grant Review Committee will convene in Atlanta in July to conduct prescribed peer review procedures which were developed in consultation with the National Institutes of Health. Since the University of Minnesota was 1 of the 16 academic health centers whose application was approved for funding in the 1986 competition, we expect that they will compete successfully in this round as well.

We appreciate your interest in the Prevention Centers Program. A copy of this correspondence is being sent to your Washington Office.

Sincerely yours,

*[Signature]* for  
James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H.  
Assistant Surgeon General  
Director

HB

I COULDN'T AGREE MORE WITH YOU.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME BOSCHWITZ HAS RESPONDED LIKE THIS. ALL OTHERS UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR SUPPORT IS NOTHING MORE THAN AWARENESS OF THE FACT THAT AN APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE. THE OTHERS ARE VERY CLEAR ON THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS AND STAY AWAY FROM ANY APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY/INTRUSION.

I KNOW, AND HOPE YOU KNOW I KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW WITH NO OUTSIDE INFLUENCE. BY THE SAME TOKEN MOST THINGS ARE POLITICAL AND IT OFTEN HELPS TO HAVE OUR FRIENDS KNOW WHAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DO. ENUF SAID!

CHEERS  
JTM

Basically, don't  
extremely uncomfortable  
with this kind of  
intrusion into the  
peer review process.  
We're always done  
OK without it.  
We can discuss  
it sometime  
Henry.