

# CITY OF BOSTON



THOMAS M. MENINO, MAYOR

August 28, 2009

Board of Trustees  
Dr. Caren Walker Gregory  
Health Careers Academy  
360 Huntington Avenue/102 Cahners  
Boston, MA 02115

To the Board of Trustees and Dr. Walker Gregory:

Our nation – and in fact, the world – has suffered a tremendous loss this week with the passing of Senator Edward M. Kennedy. The loss is felt most profoundly here in our city where the Senator championed causes for us collectively as well as personally. Ted Kennedy had a special relationship with our citizens; so many of us in Boston have been touched by this extraordinary statesman.

As the author of more than 2,500 pieces of legislation, Senator Kennedy fought tirelessly and relentlessly for the needy, the disabled, the immigrant, the less advantaged. He was particularly passionate about education, health care, and public service.

I have thought long and hard about the most appropriate way to honor the life and work of one of our nation's most influential and accomplished leaders. I can think of no more fitting tribute than to name a school in Ted Kennedy's honor.

Health Careers Academy embodies all that Senator Kennedy cared so deeply about – a school that in preparing students for careers in the health care industry “provides a supportive learning environment that promotes respect and embraces diversity (so that) students will attain the life skills needed to become productive and positive members of society.”

I am therefore writing to ask that your school community consider initiating the process to change the name of Health Careers Academy to one that would include the name of Senator Edward M. Kennedy. I believe it would be an appropriate tribute to rename Health Careers Academy – a school rich in learning opportunities – in honor of a man who taught us all so much. I thank you for your kind consideration of helping to immortalize a truly great American, our friend, Ted Kennedy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Menino".

Thomas M. Menino  
Mayor of Boston

Cc: Rev. Gregory G. Groover, Sr., Chairperson, Boston School Committee  
Dr. Carol Johnson, Superintendent, Boston Public Schools