



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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July 11, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to urge the Committee on Energy and Commerce to pass the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education (GME) Support Reauthorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 5385) and the Educating Medical Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency Readiness (EMPOWER) Act of 2017 (H.R. 3728).

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health care through innovative medical education, cutting-edge patient care, and groundbreaking medical research. Its members are all 151 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 80 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC serves the leaders of America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and their more than 173,000 full-time faculty members, 89,000 medical students, 129,000 resident physicians, and more than 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences.

As physician workforce shortages are projected to grow across all specialties — up to 121,300 total physicians by 2030 — continued robust funding for graduate medical education is critical to ensure patient access to care. As you know, the CHGME program provides necessary support for the training programs at children's hospitals across the country that produce general pediatricians and pediatric specialists. By reauthorizing the CHGME program for five years and increasing the authorization level for the program to \$325 million per year, the Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act will help ensure children have access to the care they need.

Equally important, Title VII health professions programs are a petri dish for innovation that prepare our current and future physician workforce to respond to the nation's constantly changing health care needs. Title VII programs increase the supply, distribution, and diversity of the health care workforce and improve access to and quality of care for vulnerable populations — including children and families living on low incomes, veterans, seniors, and individuals in underserved communities. We greatly appreciate your efforts to reauthorize the Title VII

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programs under the EMPOWER Act to ensure these programs continue to help shape our health care workforce. At the same time, we continue to urge appropriators to provide at least \$424 million for the Title VII programs in FY 2019.

Again, we thank you for your ongoing support of these critical health care workforce programs and urge the Committee to pass both H.R. 5385 and H.R. 3728. We look forward to continuing our work with you to ensure the health care workforce meets the needs of all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Fisher, JD
Chief Public Policy Officer