

March 24, 2021

The Honorable Terri Sewell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2201 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Katko  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2428 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Suozzi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
407 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney Davis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2079 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sewell, Congressman Katko, Congressman Suozzi, and Congressman Davis:

On behalf of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Advocacy Coalition, the undersigned organizations offer our enthusiastic support for the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act. This bipartisan legislation is crucial to expanding the physician workforce and to ensuring that patients across the country are able to access quality care from providers.

The need for physicians continues to grow faster than supply, leading to an estimated shortfall of between 54,100 and 139,000 primary care and specialty physicians by 2033. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed the significant barriers to care that patients face, and has also highlighted rising concerns of clinician burnout. This is particularly alarming given that more than two of five currently active physicians will be 65 or older within the next decade, raising concerns about the impact of physician retirement. Additionally, the U.S. population is continuing to both grow and age, and access issues persist in rural and underserved areas. The physician workforce is a critical element of our nation's health care infrastructure, and if we do not address this impending problem, patients from pediatrics to geriatrics and nearly everyone in-between, will find it even more difficult to access the care they need.

America's medical schools, teaching hospitals, and their physician partners are doing their part by investing in physician and health care provider training and leading innovations in new care delivery models that are more efficient and include better use of technologies — like telehealth — that improve patient access to care. Even with these efforts, however, shortages and access challenges will persist unless we expand the physician workforce.

We are grateful that bipartisan congressional leaders worked together to provide 1,000 new Medicare-supported GME positions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 – the first increase of its kind in nearly 25 years. The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2021 would build on this historic investment by gradually raising the number of Medicare-supported GME positions by 2,000 per year for seven years, for a total of 14,000 new slots. A share of these positions would be targeted to hospitals with diverse needs including hospitals in rural areas, hospitals serving patients from health professional shortage areas (HPSAs), hospitals in

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states with new medical schools or branch campuses, and hospitals already training over their caps.

We look forward to working together to support the training of future physicians and to secure the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Association of American Medical Colleges  
Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health  
Academy for Professionalism in Health Care  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)  
Alliance of Specialty Medicine  
America's Essential Hospitals  
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Academic Addiction Medicine (ACAAM)  
American College of Mohs Surgery  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Rheumatology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Headache Society  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM)  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons

American Urological Association  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of Minority Health Professions  
Association of Pathology Chairs  
Association of Professors of Dermatology  
Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics  
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO)  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
Children's Hospital Association  
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations  
College of American Pathologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Federation of American Hospitals  
Greater New York Hospital Association  
Healthcare Association of New York State  
Heart Failure Society of America  
Illinois Health and Hospital Association  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
Premier Healthcare Alliance  
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of Academic Associations of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine  
Society of Directors of Research in Medical Education  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of University Surgeons  
Student National Medical Association (SNMA)  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Vizient, Inc.