



**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
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April 28, 2023

The Honorable Tom Cole  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cole:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to thank you for reintroducing the *Medical Student Education Authorization Act of 2023*, authorizing the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Title VII Medical Student Education (MSE) program through fiscal year (FY) 2025, as well as a number of initiatives that would increase the primary care workforce in areas of greatest need. The AAMC is pleased to support this legislation.

The AAMC is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Its members are all 157 U.S. medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education; 13 accredited Canadian medical schools; approximately 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and the millions of individuals across academic medicine, including more than 193,000 full-time faculty members, 96,000 medical students, 153,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences. Following a 2022 merger, the Alliance of Academic Health Centers and the Alliance of Academic Health Centers International broadened the AAMC's U.S. membership and expanded its reach to international academic health centers.

The AAMC continues to project that physician demand will grow faster than supply (primarily driven by a growing, aging U.S. population) leading to a projected total physician shortage up to 124,000 physicians by 2034. Within these totals, we project a shortage of primary care physicians between 17,800 and 48,000 by 2034. Shortages in the physician supply will have real impact on patients, particularly those living in rural, frontier, island or non-contiguous settings, and other already underserved communities. The AAMC's "Health Care Utilization Equity" scenario finds that if underserved populations were to experience the same health care use patterns as populations with fewer barriers to access, the U.S. would need an additional 102,400 to 180,400 physicians just to meet *current* demand.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections From 2019 to 2034](#), Prepared for the AAMC by IHS Markit Ltd., June 2021.

We appreciate that your bill would expand training for medical students and reinforce academic medicine's efforts to train culturally conscious providers who can identify and better address challenges to health equity in under-resourced communities. The MSE program trained nearly 3,000 students in academic year 2021-2022 alone, and MSE grantees were able to provide 4,875 clinical training experiences, with 68% of these sites in medically underserved and rural communities.<sup>2</sup> The bill's grant program has demonstrated effectiveness as an important complement to other programs that successfully recruit and retain medical professionals in under-resourced and historically marginalized communities, and we welcome the bill's unique efforts to further reinforce these goals and develop strategic partnerships in communities with the greatest unmet need for primary care providers. We also appreciate that this bill would reauthorize the MSE program through fiscal year (FY) 2025, which is when many of the other HRSA Title VII health professions programs, authorized under the Public Health Service Act, will be due for reauthorization.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to grow and support the health workforce. We look forward to continuing to work with you as the legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Danielle P. Turnipseed in black ink.

Danielle Turnipseed, JD, MHSA, MPP  
AAMC Chief Public Policy Officer

cc: David J. Skorton, MD,  
President and CEO

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<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. HRSA, 2023. HRSA FY 2024 Congressional Budget Justification. March 2023.  
<https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/about/budget/budget-justification-fy2024.pdf>