Ensure Continued Access to Healthcare and Prevent a Doctor Shortage
Cosponsor the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act to continue America’s tradition of training the world’s best and brightest physicians in teaching hospitals

Supported by numerous organizations nationwide, including: American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, American Hospital Association, American Osteopathic Association, Association of American Medical Colleges

Dear Colleague,

We invite you to cosponsor H.R. 2124, the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act. This legislation would prevent a looming doctor shortage by ensuring additional residency slots are available for teaching hospitals, so that these hospitals can continue to train recent medical school graduates.

As our population grows older, the demand for physician and other health care services will only continue to increase. However, the U.S. is facing a shortage of 90,000 primary care and specialty physicians by 2025, and almost half of the states are already reporting a physician workforce shortage. Medical schools have responded by increasing enrollment, yet many of these graduates are unable to continue their required training in residency slots, due to a federally-mandated limit on the number of residency slots supported by Medicare. The result is not just a shortage, but a bottleneck of qualified potential doctors.

Teaching hospitals and academic medical centers rely on support from Medicare’s Graduate Medical Education (GME) program to fulfill their mission of training physicians for the public good, furnishing highly-specialized care to the most medically complex patients, and delivering essential health care services to the community. Training our nation’s doctors has long been a shared responsibility between medical schools, teaching hospitals, and the federal programs that support these efforts. Yet, the outdated cap on residency slots supported by the federal government puts at risk the continued success of these efforts, and limits our nation’s ability to address the doctor shortage.

Congress needs to act to increase the number of available residency slots, in order to prevent thousands of qualified medical school graduates from being unable to become a licensed physician. The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act is a targeted reform that addresses the shortage by phasing in a total of 15,000 new GME residency slots (3,000 per year over 5 years). By increasing the number of residency slots available to the country’s teaching hospitals, we will be able to continue our nation’s tradition of training the world’s best and brightest physicians.

To co-sponsor H.R. 2124, The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act, or for additional information, please contact Nicole Cohen in Rep. Crowley’s office at 202-225-3965 (nicole.cohen@mail.house.gov) or Melissa Gierach in Rep. Boustany’s office at 202-225-2031 (melissa.gierach@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress

CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR., M.D.
Member of Congress