

March 24, 2021

Washington, DC 20510

Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Menendez, Senator Boozman, and Majority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Advocacy Coalition, the undersigned organizations offer our enthusiastic support for the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act (S. 834). 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

Q D W L E R T O C F V 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.

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

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.