



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

May 3, 2023

The Honorable Terri Sewell
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
271 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support of H.R. 2389, the *Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act*

Dear Representatives Sewell and Fitzpatrick:

As the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance), our mission is to advocate for sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. As patient and physician advocates, the Alliance writes in support of your legislation, **H.R. 2389, the *Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act***, which would increase the number of Graduate Medical Education (GME) residency positions an additional 2,000 residency positions each year for seven years to tackle the severe physician manpower shortage.

We thank Congress for taking the first steps to address this issue by approving 1,000 new Medicare-supported GME slots in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* and 200 additional positions in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*. However, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the United States will face a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034. While the Alliance acknowledges the need to increase the number of available primary care providers, we note that specialty shortages will be particularly large, including neurosurgeons, urologists, cardiologists, gastroenterologists, rheumatologists, ophthalmologists, plastic and reconstructive surgeons, dermatologic surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, osteopathic surgeons, and general surgeons. Given the increased demand created for their services by an aging population and expanded insurance coverage, we need to take steps now to ensure a fully trained specialty physician workforce for the future. This legislation will begin to help improve the acute shortage of specialty physicians.

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American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery • American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons • American College of Mohs Surgery • American College of Osteopathic Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association • American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery • American Society of Echocardiography • American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Society of Retina Specialists • American Urological Association • Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons • National Association of Spine Specialists • Society of Interventional Radiology

The Alliance recognizes that both primary care providers and specialists are an integral part of American medicine. Your legislation would improve the nation's graduate medical education system and help to preserve access to essential health services for many Americans. For these reasons, the Alliance extends our strong support for your legislation.

Sincerely,

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