



## Sound Policy. Quality Care.

May 3, 2023

The Honorable Robert Menendez  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Support of S. 1302, the *Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act***

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Senators Menendez, Boozman, and Collins:

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, **S. 1302, 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

[www.specialtydocs.org](http://www.specialtydocs.org)

[info@specialtydocs.org](mailto:info@specialtydocs.org)

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

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.

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,

American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association  
American Society of Cataract and 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