

July 18, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Advocacy Coalition, the undersigned groups urge you to build upon the historic investment in the health care workforce in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, and in particular GME, as you consider the upcoming budget reconciliation legislation. Physicians are a vital component of our nation's health care infrastructure, and as we have seen throughout the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, investments to increase the number of physicians are sorely needed. **Our groups urge you to include policies that would increase Medicare support for GME in the budget reconciliation legislation.**

The United States is facing a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034, which is almost certain to be exacerbated by an aging physician population, rising rates of physician burnout, and early retirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Access issues persist for patients in both rural and urban underserved communities, and in both primary and specialty care. In order to meet the needs of our diverse and growing nation, ensure patient access to care, improve provider diversity and health equity, and prepare for the next public health crisis, it is clear that we must invest in physician training.

Congress made a critical initial investment in the physician workforce by providing 1,000 new Medicare-supported GME positions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 – the first increase of its kind in nearly twenty-five years. However, more is needed to substantially increase the number of physicians. Our groups urge you to take this opportunity to further invest in the physician workforce by again increasing the number of Medicare-support GME positions.

As providers continue to serve on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial that we invest in future physicians who can replenish the physician workforce. We urge you to include additional Medicare-supported GME training positions in the upcoming reconciliation package, and we look forward to working with you to expand and diversify the physician workforce and ensure that patients have access to the care they need.

Sincerely,
Association of American Medical Colleges
Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
Alliance of Specialty Medicine
America's Essential Hospitals
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

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American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Ophthalmology
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Academic Addiction Medicine (ACAAM)
American College of Cardiology
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Radiology
American College of Rheumatology
American College of Surgeons
American Gastroenterological Association
American Geriatrics Society
American Gynecological & Obstetrical Society (AGOS)
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Nephrology
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Surgical Association
American Urological Association
AMGA
Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers
Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC)
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
Association of Academic Psychiatrists
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Inc.
Association of University Professors of Neurology
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO)
Association of University Radiologists
California Hospital Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
College of American Pathologists
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

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Greater New York Hospital Association

Healthcare Association of New York State

Heart Failure Society of America

Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania

Illinois Health and Hospital Association

Medical Group Management Association

National AHEC Organization

National Association For Behavioral Healthcare

National Association of Spine Specialists

National Council for Diversity in Health Professions

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 Interventional Radiology

Society of Neurological Surgeons

The American Society of Breast Surgeons

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons

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