



March 28, 2023

The Honorable Terri Sewell
U.S. House of Representatives
2201 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
271 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Sewell and Fitzpatrick:

On behalf of the nation's medical schools, teaching hospitals, and physician faculty, thank you for reintroducing the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2023. This bipartisan legislation would provide a responsible increase in Medicare support for graduate medical education (GME) to address the looming physician shortage. We greatly appreciate your leadership on this legislation, which would provide a much-needed expansion in Medicare's support for physician training to ensure all patients have access to the care they deserve.

The AAMC is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Its members are all 157 U.S. medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education; 13 accredited Canadian medical schools; approximately 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and the millions of individuals across academic medicine, including more than 193,000 full-time faculty members, 96,000 medical students, 153,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences. Following a 2022 merger, the Alliance of Academic Health Centers and the Alliance of Academic Health Centers International broadened the AAMC's U.S. membership and expanded its reach to international academic health centers.

As you know, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) estimates that the United States faces a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034.¹ Physicians are a critical element of our health care system, and if we do not address this imminent problem, Medicare beneficiaries, and all patients, will find it even more difficult to access both the primary and specialty care they need. While this is a serious issue for all of us, it is especially problematic because of our aging population. A person's need for a physician increases with age, and the U.S. population aged 65 and older is predicted to grow 50% by 2030.²

America's medical schools and teaching hospitals are doing their part 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

¹ <https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/press-releases/aamc-report-reinforces-mounting-physician-shortage>

² <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2018/cb18-41-population-projections.html>

access to high quality care. While we greatly appreciate that Congress has provided 1,200 new Medicare-supported GME slots over the last three years, more must be done as shortages and access challenges will persist unless we continue to expand the physician workforce.

Again, we at the AAMC greatly appreciate your efforts, and are committed to working with you and other champions to secure the passage of this legislation. If you have additional questions please contact Len Marquez, Senior Director, Government Relations (lmarquez@aamc.org) or Ally Perleoni, Manager, Government Relations (aperleoni@aamc.org). Thank you for advocating on behalf of academic medicine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Skorton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Skorton" clearly legible.

David J. Skorton, MD
President and CEO
Association of American Medical Colleges