

April 10, 2019

Dear Member of Congress:

**The undersigned organizations, representing over 65 associations and specialty societies, strongly encourage you to cosponsor the “The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2019” (S. 348, H.R. 1763).** This bipartisan legislation would provide a responsible increase in Medicare support for graduate medical education (GME) to address the impending national physician workforce shortage. While we understand the many challenges Congress faces in the coming months, we stress the need to expand Medicare’s support for physician training to ensure all Americans have access to the care they deserve.

As you may know, the demand for physicians continues to grow faster than supply, leading to a projected shortfall of between 42,600 and 121,300 physicians by 2030 with predicted shortages in both primary and specialty care. Physicians are a critical element of our health care infrastructure and workforce, and if we do not address this impending problem, patients from pediatrics to geriatrics, will find it difficult to access the care they need. While this is a serious issue for all of us, it is especially problematic because of our aging population and physician retirement. 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.

America’s medical schools, teaching hospitals, and their physician partners 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 access to care. Even with these efforts, however, shortages and access challenges will persist unless we expand the physician workforce.

Though shortfalls will affect all Americans, the most vulnerable populations, like those in rural and underserved areas, will be the first to feel the impact of the deficit of physicians. We are particularly concerned for our senior population whose Medicare eligibility and utilization of health care grows daily.

We look forward to working together to support the training of future physicians and to secure the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
Alliance of Specialty Medicine  
AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine  
America’s Essential Hospitals  
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
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 and Rehabilitation  
American Academy of Sleep Medicine  
American Association for Anatomy  
American Association of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American Board of Medical Specialties  
American College of Academic Addiction Medicine  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Clinical Pharmacology®  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Internists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiology  
American College of Surgeons  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Orthopaedic Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Breast Surgeons  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Urological Association  
Association of Academic Chairs of Emergency Medicine  
Association of Academic Psychiatrists  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Directors of Medical Student Education in Psychiatry  
Association of Pathology Chairs  
Association of Professors of Dermatology  
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology  
Children's Hospital Association  
College of American Pathologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Federation of American Hospitals  
Greater New York Hospital Association  
Healthcare Association of New York State  
Illinois Health and Hospital Association  
Medical Group Management Association

National Association of Spine Specialists  
National Medical Association  
Premier Healthcare Alliance  
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine  
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions  
Society for Vascular Surgery  
Society of Academic Associations of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Neurological Surgeons  
The Academy for Professionalism in Health Care  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Vizient