



May 22, 2023

The Honorable Bob Menendez
U.S. Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senator Menendez, Senator Boozman, Senator Collins, and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Advocacy Coalition, the over 80 undersigned organizations offer our enthusiastic support for the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2023 (S. 1302). This bipartisan legislation is crucial to expanding the physician workforce and to ensuring that patients across the country are able to access quality care from providers.

The need for physicians continues to grow faster than supply, leading to an estimated shortfall of up to 124,000 primary care and specialty physicians by 2034.¹ 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 that improve patient access to care. Even with these efforts, however, shortages and access challenges will persist unless we expand the physician workforce. With demand for physicians continuing to outpace supply as both the patient population and physician workforce continue to age – it is critical now more than ever that Congress build on recent bipartisan efforts and invest in training more doctors.

We are grateful that bipartisan congressional leaders have worked together to provide 1,200 new Medicare-supported GME positions since 2021 – the first such increases in nearly thirty years. The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2023 would build on this historic investment by gradually raising the number of Medicare-supported GME positions by 2,000 per year for seven years, for a total of 14,000 new slots. A share of these positions would be targeted to hospitals with diverse needs including hospitals in rural areas, hospitals serving patients from health professional shortage areas (HPSAs), hospitals in states with new medical schools or branch campuses, and hospitals already training over their caps.

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

Sens. Menendez, Boozman, and Collins and Leader Schumer

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

Sincerely,

Association of American Medical Colleges
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
Alliance of Specialty Medicine
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
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 and Rehabilitation
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 Medical Association
American Orthopaedic Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Anesthesiologists
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Urological Association
America's Essential Hospitals
AMGA
Association of Academic Chairs of Emergency Medicine (AACEM)
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries
Association of Academic Physiatrists
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools (AMHPS)
Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers
Association of University Professors of Neurology
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology
Association of University Radiologists
Association of Women in Rheumatology (AWIR)

California Hospital Association
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Children's Hospital Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
College of American Pathologists
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Federation of American Hospitals
Greater New York Hospital Association
Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS)
Healthcare Leadership Council
Heart Failure Society of America
Heart Rhythm Society
Intealth
Medical Group Management Association
Minnesota Hospital Association
National AHEC Organization (NAO)
National Association of Spine Specialists
National Council for Diversity in Health Professions (NCDHP)
Premier Inc.
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM)
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions
Society for Vascular Surgery
Society of Academic Associations of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine
Society of Chairs of Academic Radiology Departments
Society of Directors of Research in Medical Education
Society of General Internal Medicine
Society of Interventional Radiology
Society of Neurological Surgeons
Society of University Surgeons
The American College of Rheumatology
The American Society of Breast Surgeons
The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania
The Society of Clinical Psychology (Division 12 APA)
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
The Student National Medical Association
Vizient, Inc.