



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 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
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.