

May 18, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President  
United States of America  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear President Biden, Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Advocacy Coalition, the undersigned groups urge you to ensure that federal support for physician training is included in upcoming legislative efforts to improve the nation's infrastructure. Physicians are a vital part of our health care infrastructure, and it is critical that we train more in order to meet the needs of our diverse and growing nation, ensure patient access to care, and prepare for the next public health crisis.

The United States is facing a shortage of between 54,100 and 139,000 physicians by 2033 – a dearth that is almost certain to be exacerbated by rising rates of physician burnout and early retirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The physician workforce, much like our population, is aging, with nearly 45 percent of active physicians in the United States being age 55 and older. Access issues persist for patients in both rural and urban underserved communities, and in both primary and specialty care, and it is crucial that we invest in our country's health care infrastructure by helping provide them with the physicians they need and improved access care.

Congress made an initial investment in shoring up 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. The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2021 (S. 834/H.R. 2256) is bipartisan legislation that would take steps to alleviate the physician shortage by gradually providing 14,000 new Medicare-supported GME positions. Much like the 2020 year-end package, these positions would be targeted to hospitals with diverse needs, including rural teaching hospitals,

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hospitals serving patients in health professional shortage areas, hospitals in states with new medical schools or branch campuses, and hospitals already training over their Medicare caps. The legislation would also take steps to improve physician workforce diversity by commissioning a report to specifically look at ways to create a more diverse clinical workforce.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the critical need for additional federal investment in our health care infrastructure, and in particular the need for more physicians. We urge you to invest in additional Medicare-supported GME positions as part of your infrastructure efforts, and we look forward to working with you to expand 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  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and 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 Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons  
American College of Academic Addiction Medicine (ACAAM)  
American College of Clinical Pharmacology(R)  
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 Geriatrics Society  
American Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nephrology

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American Urological Association  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of Academic Health Centers  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Inc.  
Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics  
Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers  
Association of University Professors of Neurology  
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
College of American Pathologists  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Greater New York Hospital Association  
Healthcare Association of New York State  
Heart Failure Society of America  
Illinois Health and Hospital Association  
Medical Group Management Association  
National AHEC Organization  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
Premier Healthcare Alliance  
Society of Academic Associations of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of Neurological Surgeons  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Vizient, Inc.