

January 27, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
U.S. Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

CC: The Honorable Bob Menendez, The Honorable John Boozman, The Honorable Maggie Hassan, The Honorable Susan Collins

Dear Chairman Wyden and Senator Grassley:

The undersigned organizations, representing 85 associations and specialty societies and members of the GME Advocacy Coalition, thank you for investing in physician training by adding 1,000 new Medicare-supported graduate medical education (GME) positions in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. These slots are critical to helping ensure a workforce to care for patients and communities. The United States is facing a projected physician shortage of between 54,100 and 139,000 physicians by 2033, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only put more pressure on the physician workforce as physicians and providers have mobilized across the country to respond to this public health emergency.

Federal support for GME has been effectively frozen since 1997, and while the nation's teaching hospitals continue to invest their own resources to train physicians over the cap, these new slots will alleviate some of the pressure they have been facing and allow them to increase training. The residency positions supported by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 are a needed first step to train enough physicians to meet our growing and aging population. Our organizations thank you for recognizing the critical need for additional federal support for physician training, and also for taking additional steps to prioritize training programs in rural areas, hospitals training residents over their cap, states with new medical schools, and providers that care for underserved communities in the distribution of these new residency positions.

Our organizations appreciate your commitment to physician training, and we applaud you for your efforts to increase federal support for GME. We look forward to working with you in the future to ensure that communities across the country have access to the physicians they need.

Sincerely,

Association of American Medical Colleges  
Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health  
Academic Pediatric Association  
Academy for Professionalism in Health Care  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine  
Alliance of Specialty Medicine  
America's Essential Hospitals  
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry

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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 Pediatrics  
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 Neurological Surgeons  
American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training  
American College of Academic Addiction Medicine  
American College of Cardiology  
American College of Clinical Pharmacology®  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
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 Headache Society  
American Medical Association  
American Orthopaedic Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Breast Surgeons  
American Society of Echocardiography  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Plastic Surgeons  
American Surgical Association  
American Urological Association  
Association for Prevention Teaching & Research  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
Association of Academic Physiologists  
Association of Anatomy, Cell Biology and Neurobiology Chairs  
Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs

Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Pathology Chairs  
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  
Association of University Radiologists  
Catholic Health Association of the United States  
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  
Heart Failure Society of America  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Association of Spine Specialists  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Premier Healthcare Alliance  
Society for Academic Emergency Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society of Academic Associations of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine  
Society of Directors of Research in Medical Education  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Society of University Surgeons  
Student National Medical Association  
The Society of Thoracic Surgeons  
Vizient, Inc.