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March 3, 2015

The Honorable Kathy Castor
U.S. House of Representatives
205 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Castor:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am pleased to offer our support for H.R. 1117, the “Creating Access to Residency Education Act of 2015 (CARE Act),” which would authorize grants for graduate medical education (GME) positions in states with a low ratio of medical residents relative to the general population.

Workforce experts predict that the U.S. will face a shortage of over 45,000 primary care and 46,000 specialty physicians by 2020. While new U.S. allopathic and osteopathic medical schools are opening and many existing medical schools are expanding their enrollments to meet the growing demand for physicians, Medicare’s current cap on financial support for GME prevents teaching hospitals from increasing the number of residency training positions and often prevents new hospitals from establishing teaching programs. The CARE Act offers a creative solution to these concerns by establishing federal grants, in partnership with other stakeholders, to support the creation of new medical residency positions. Importantly, this legislation would target areas with significant need by focusing on states where there are few medical residents compared to the general population.

We believe that the CARE Act would be a significant step toward ensuring access to care by providing funding for new GME positions. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and look forward to working with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Madara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD