

Support Policies to Ensure Sufficient Numbers of Internal Medicine Specialists Fund Federal Programs that Train Primary Care Physicians and Alleviate Medical Student Debt

Talking Points for Use in Calls with Members of Congress and Staff

- I am a physician from [TOWN] and have been treating patients for [# of years]. I am very concerned about the future of the physician workforce, especially for those in the field of primary care but also those in other specialties facing shortages.
- Current projections indicate there will be a shortage up to 55,200 primary care physicians by 2033. One reason is that the ever-increasing cost of obtaining a medical education is discouraging medical students and residents from opting to enter careers in primary care. Congress has also put caps on funding for Graduate Medical Education that make it impossible to fund the number of residency positions needed to train enough primary care and other physicians to meet the country's needs.
- Congress can play a vital role in this effort by making much-needed investments in federal health care programs and initiatives designed to maintain and expand primary care, ensure an adequate physician workforce, and promote public health.

I am asking you to make the following a priority:

- ✓ Cosponsor and pass the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act (S. 348, H.R. 1763), which would lift the GME caps as needed to permit training an adequate number of primary care physicians, including internal medicine specialists, and physicians in other specialties facing shortages.
 - ✓ Cosponsor and pass the Resident Education Deferred Interest Act (the REDI Act, H.R. 1554), which would save physicians in residency programs thousands of dollars in interest on their loans and help incentivize the opening of practices in underserved areas or otherwise make research more attractive and affordable to residents. Senators should introduce companion legislation in the U.S. Senate.
 - ✓ Pass legislation to adequately fund key federal workforce programs in FY2021, specifically the Title VII Health Professions Primary Care and Training Enhancement Grants, the National Health Service Corps which provides loans and scholarships to physicians, and community health centers which play an important role in helping underserved populations.
- Support for these programs will help ensure an adequate pipeline of physicians in the field of primary care and other key specialties experiencing shortages.