



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Kathy Castor
205 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Castor:

As the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance), our mission is to advocate for sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care. As patient and physician advocates, the Alliance writes in support of your legislation, H.R. 4774, the "Training Tomorrow's Doctors Today Act," which would increase the number of Graduate Medical Education (GME) residency positions by 15,000 over the next 5 years in order to tackle the severe physician manpower shortage.

While the Alliance acknowledges the need to increase the number of available primary care providers, this only addresses part of the problem. The United States will face an overall shortage of more than 130,000 physicians by 2025. One-half of this shortage, however, will come from specialty physicians, including neurosurgeons, urologists, cardiologists, gastroenterologists and orthopaedic surgeons. Given the increased demand created for their services by an aging population and expanded insurance coverage, we need to take steps now to ensure a fully trained specialty physician workforce for the future. We are in agreement that this legislation will begin to help improve the acute shortage of specialty physicians.

The Alliance recognizes that both primary care providers and specialists are an integral part of American medicine. We support the report included as part of your legislation that would study the needs of the US healthcare system and allocate residencies accordingly.

Your legislation would improve the nation's graduate medical education system and help to preserve access to essential health services for many Americans. For these reasons, the Alliance extends our strong support.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
American Urological Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
North American Spine Society
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions