



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

April 21, 2021

The Honorable Bob Menendez
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support of S. 834, the “Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act”

Dear Senator Menendez, Senator Boozman, and Leader Schumer:

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, **S. 834, the “Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act,”** which would increase the number of Graduate Medical Education (GME) residency positions an additional 2,000 residency positions each year for seven years to tackle the severe physician manpower shortage.

We thank Congress for taking the first step to address this issue by approving 1,000 new Medicare-supported GME slots (section 126) in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (Public Law No. 116-260). However, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the United States will face an overall shortage of up to 139,000 physicians by 2033. While the Alliance acknowledges the need to increase the number of available primary care providers, we note that specialty shortages will be particularly large, including neurosurgeons, urologists, cardiologists, gastroenterologists, plastic and reconstructive surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, and general 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. This legislation will begin to help improve the acute shortage of specialty physicians.

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American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery • American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Mohs Surgery • American College of Osteopathic Surgeons • American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association • American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery • American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Plastic Surgeons • American Society of Retina Specialists • American Urological Association
Coalition of State Rheumatology Organizations • Congress of Neurological Surgeons • National Association of Spine Specialists

The Alliance recognizes that both primary care providers and specialists are an integral part of American medicine. 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 of your legislation.

Sincerely,

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