January 27, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-255, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-226, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

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
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 Physiatrists
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.