



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

**GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION**  
**S. 834/H.R. 2256, *Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act***

**REQUEST**

The Alliance of Specialty Medicine urges members of Congress to **cosponsor and advance the bipartisan *Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act (S. 834/H.R. 2256)*** introduced in the Senate by Sens. Bob Menendez (D-NJ), John Boozman, MD (R-AR), and Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and in the House by Reps. Terri Sewell (D-AL), John Katko (R-NY), Tom Suozzi (D-NY), and Rodney Davis (R-IL).

**BILL SUMMARY**

To address the physician workforce shortages in many specialties that will jeopardize access to care, the ***Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act*** will improve the nation's Graduate Medical Education (GME) system and help to preserve access to specialty care by increasing Medicare-supported GME residency slots by 14,000 over the next seven years; specifying priorities for distributing the new slots (e.g., states with new medical schools); and studying strategies to increase the diversity of the health professional workforce.

**BACKGROUND**

Congress took an important first step to address the physician shortage crisis by approving 1,000 new Medicare-supported GME slots in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (P.L. 116-260). However, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the United States faces an overall shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034, including 77,100 specialty and 48,000 primary care physicians. Specialty shortages — including neurosurgeons, urologists, cardiologists, gastroenterologists, plastic and reconstructive surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, and general surgeons — will be particularly acute. 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. These measures will begin to help improve the acute shortage of specialty physicians.

**CONTACT**

To cosponsor **S. 834**, please contact [Swarna\\_Vallurupalli@menendez.senate.gov](mailto:Swarna_Vallurupalli@menendez.senate.gov) (Sen. Menendez) or [Ryan\\_Losak@boozman.senate.gov](mailto:Ryan_Losak@boozman.senate.gov) (Sen. Boozman).

To cosponsor **H.R. 2256**, please contact [Earl.Flood@mail.house.gov](mailto:Earl.Flood@mail.house.gov) (Rep. Sewell) or [Jennifer.Tyler@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Tyler@mail.house.gov) (Rep. Katko).