



Sound Policy. Quality Care.

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION
S. 1302/H.R. 2389, 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. 1302/H.R. 2389)*** introduced in the Senate by Sens. **Bob Menendez** (D-NJ), **John Boozman**, OD (R-AR), **Charles Schumer** (D-NY), and **Susan Collins** (R-ME), and in the House by Reps. **Terri Sewell** (D-AL) and **Brian Fitzpatrick** (R-PA).

BACKGROUND

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, 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.¹ Shortages will be particularly acute in the coming years for neurosurgeons, urologists, rheumatologists, ophthalmologists, cardiologists, gastroenterologists, plastic and reconstructive surgeons, dermatologic surgeons, orthopaedic surgeons, osteopathic surgeons, and general surgeons. It is especially critical to take action now because specialty physicians require up to seven years of post-graduate residency training compared to three years for primary care physicians. Given the increased demand created for their services by an aging population and expanded insurance coverage, Congress needs to take steps now to ensure a fully trained specialty physician workforce for the future.

Congress has taken important steps to address the physician shortage crisis by approving 1,200 new Medicare-supported Graduate Medical Education (GME) slots in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (P.L. 116-260) and the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023* (P.L. 117-73). However, this falls far short of what is needed to ensure an adequate supply of physicians and allow the graduate medical education system to operate optimally.

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 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.

CONTACT

To cosponsor **S. 1302**, please contact Artin_Haghshenas@menendez.senate.gov (Sen. Menendez) or Bailey_McCue@boozman.senate.gov (Sen. Boozman).

To cosponsor **H.R. 2389**, please contact Cameryn.Blackmore@mail.house.gov (Rep. Sewell) or Jacqueline.Baggett@mail.house.gov (Rep. Fitzpatrick).

¹ <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/workforce/report/physician-workforce-projections>.