

## Support H.R. 1202/S. 704 – the Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act and H.R. 2389/S. 1302 - the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2023

**Issue:** Congress should invest in federal programs that expand the primary care physician workforce, such as Graduate Medical Education (GME) and loan deferment initiatives.

### Why Action is Needed:

It is estimated that there will [be a shortage of 17,800 to 48,000 primary care physicians by 2034](#). A 2021 [report](#) by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine called on policymakers to increase investment in primary care as evidence shows that it is critical for achieving health care's quadruple aim (enhancing patient experience, improving population, reducing costs, and improving the health care team experience). Now, with the closure of many physician practices and near-retirement physicians not returning to the workforce due to the pandemic, it is even more imperative to assist those clinicians serving on the frontlines and increasing the number of future physicians in the pipeline.

Medical students and residents are playing a critical role in furnishing care to patients while many of them carry an [average debt of over \\$200,000](#). These physicians-in-training serve an integral role in the delivery of health care in the United States. Many physician practices are still struggling financially, coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, and with the growing demands being placed on the existing workforce it is even more imperative to protect patients' access to care by assisting these clinicians serving on the frontlines and to increase the number of future physicians in the pipeline.

### ACP's Position

ACP strongly supports federal training programs to ensure that an adequate workforce exists to provide primary care to patients. Funding should be maintained and increased for programs and initiatives that increase the number of physicians and other health care professionals providing care for all communities, including for racial and ethnic communities historically underserved and disenfranchised.

ACP applauds recent efforts by congressional committees to examine the growing health care workforce crisis. Moreover, ACP has provided ongoing feedback and recommendations to these committees on bipartisan solutions to help mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic on the physician workforce and how investment in primary care is vital in that effort. In a statement submitted to the [Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions \(HELP\) Committee](#), ACP outlines steps Congress can take to foster a more robust physician workforce.

### Call to Action

- [Co-sponsor and pass](#) the **REDI (Resident Education Deferred Interest) Act (H.R. 1202/S. 704)**, which would allow borrowers to qualify for interest-free deferment on their student loans while in a medical or dental internship or residency program.
- [Co-sponsor and pass](#) the **Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2023 (H.R. 2389/S. 1302)**, which would gradually raise the number of Medicare-supported GME positions by 2,000 per year for seven years.