

Support H.R. 2389/S. 1302 - the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2023

Issue: Federal Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs that train the primary care physician workforce need additional investment in order to address the growing physician shortage across the country.

Why Action is Needed: It is estimated that there will be [a shortage of 20,200 to 40,400 primary care physicians by 2036](#). A 2021 [report](#) by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) 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). That report also stated that the evidence shows that increasing the proportion of primary care physicians in the total physician workforce has numerous benefits, including increasing quality and access to care. The NASEM report specifically calls for increasing the proportion of GME funding dedicated towards primary care physician training. More residency slots are needed to achieve this goal.

Unfortunately, we are going backwards; the primary care physician ratio per 100,000 [people fell from 67.8 in 2020 to 67.2 in 2021](#).

ACP's Position

ACP strongly [supports](#) federal funding for training programs and legislative initiatives to ensure an adequate physician workforce exists to meet the nation's primary care needs. 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. While ACP was encouraged by efforts in 2023 by congressional committees to examine the growing health care workforce crisis, there has not been meaningful legislative action to address the issue.

Over the years, ACP has provided ongoing feedback and recommendations to these committees about bipartisan solutions to help mitigate the negative impact of the physician workforce shortage 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 outlined steps Congress can take to foster a more robust physician workforce. ACP has also called for increased funding for physician workforce programs such as the National Health Service Corps and the Primary Care Training and Enhancement program, but unfortunately both programs were essentially flat funded for fiscal year 2024.

Call to Action

[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.