

Hi Everyone - Below is the text of a letter the National Protect Our Care Coalition would like to send to the Colorado Congressional Delegation. It's in support of the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act which will help increase the number for residencies supported by Medicare to help alleviate the shortage of physicians. Please let us know if you or your organization would be interested in signing.

We would like to get all signatures together by Tuesday. Thanks so much and let me know if you have any questions.

Erin McCann

**March XXXXX, 2018**

## **Health Care Community Concerned as Country Faces Physician Shortage**

### **Ohio Congressional Delegation:**

As you know, our coalition of Ohio's health care and human service consumers, workers, providers, and insurers has been paying close attention to the debate over health care and health care funding in Congress.

One of these critical issues is the shortage of physicians. Demand for physicians and quality health care continues to grow, especially as our population grows older. According to an Association of American Medical Colleges [study](#), by 2030 demand for physicians will surpass the number of physicians by up to 105,000.

While medical schools have responded to this alarming potential shortage by increasing enrollment, many of these graduates, who go on to become residents at hospitals, will be unable to continue their training. This is due to an outdated, federally-mandated limit on the number of residency slots supported by Medicare. The result is not just a shortage, but a "bottleneck" of qualified potential doctors.

Teaching hospitals and medical centers rely on the Medicare program to fund Graduate Medical Education (GME) and support the training of physicians. They share the responsibility to train our state's doctors, and the federal program that supports them is now hindering their progress. The archaic cap on residency slots will only further exacerbate Colorado's ability to address the doctor shortage.

Congress must act to increase the number of available residency slots in order to prevent thousands of qualified medical school graduates from being unable to become practicing physicians. The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act ([S.1301](#) and companion bill [H.R. 2267](#)) is a bipartisan and vital reform to address the shortage by phasing in 3,000 new GME residency slots over 5 years for a total of 15,000 new physicians.

It's simple supply and demand – by increasing the number of residency slots available to teaching hospitals, Coloradans will be able to prevent a disastrous doctor shortage and continue our nation's tradition of training the world's best and brightest physicians.

## Signatories



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