



## Top 10 reasons to protect Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding

1. **Alleviate physician shortages**—Workforce experts predict that without adequate, stable funding for GME, the United States will face a shortage of 62,900 physicians in 2015 that will increase to 130,000 across all specialties by 2025.
2. **Preserve patient access to care**—With the passage of the health system reform law (the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act), the demand for physicians will significantly increase as 30 million Americans request more health care services starting in 2014.
3. **Ensure the availability of vital patient services in underserved communities**—Many medical residents train at teaching hospitals where they care for the underserved, indigent and elderly, including 28 percent of all Medicaid hospitalizations.
4. **Protect charity care**—Teaching hospitals (where medical residents train) provide approximately 40 percent of all charity care—at a cost of \$8.4 billion annually.
5. **Care for our veterans**—More than 37,000 medical residents received some or all of their training at VA hospitals while caring for active soldiers and veterans.
6. **Contribute to a healthier community at-large**—Medical residents provide complex and acute care. Teaching institutions where residents train often operate at a loss to provide specialized services and support clinical research, and rely on federal GME funding to stay afloat.
7. **Meet the needs of our growing and aging population**—Workforce experts predict that a growing and aging population, advances in medicine that lead to longer life, and an aging physician workforce will significantly increase demand for physician services in the United States.
8. **Ensure training opportunities exist for medical school graduates**—While new U.S. allopathic and osteopathic medical schools are opening and many medical schools are expanding their enrollments to meet the need for more physicians, GME training programs are experiencing minimal growth due to limited federal funding. As a result, U.S. medical school graduates will exceed the number of available residency slots as soon as 2015.
9. **Ensure training opportunities exist for international medical graduates**—International graduates comprise almost 27 percent of medical residents and fellows in the United States and 25 percent of all practicing physicians. They provide much needed patient care since many of them enter primary care specialties and serve in underserved and shortage areas, including intercity and rural areas.
10. **Encourage our nation's best and brightest students to pursue a medical career**—Becoming a physician requires a huge personal and financial commitment; most physicians have undergone 11 to 20 years of education, including undergraduate, medical school and residency training. Without adequately funded training positions, students—especially those from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds—may be discouraged from pursuing a medical career, which would have a major impact on patient access to care.