

# MEDICAL STUDENT ADVOCACY AND REGION CONFERENCE 2019

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## 2019 AMA MEDICAL STUDENT ADVOCACY AND REGION CONFERENCE LEAVE BEHIND

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### Graduate Medical Education – The Facts

Completion of residency training offered by GME programs is a fundamental component of medical education, critical for U.S. physicians to become board certified professionals.

- There is a projected shortage of between 42,600 and 121,300 physicians by 2030
- 40% of all charity care in the U.S is provided by teaching hospitals
- 61% of all Level 1 regional trauma centers, 40% of neonatal ICUs, 62% pediatric ICUs, and 75% of burn care units are in teaching hospitals
- The average medical student has \$190,624 in loan debt upon graduating medical school, with a total of 75% of all medical students carrying some amount of loan debt

### THE ASK:

- Support for the “Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2019,” ([S. 348](#)) which seeks to address the growing physician shortage and strengthen the nation’s health care system by providing 15,000 additional Medicare-supported graduate medical education (GME) positions over five years.
- Support for the “Community and Public Health Programs Extension Act of 2019,” ([S. 192](#)) which provides five years of mandatory funding for the NHSC, CHCs, Special Diabetes Program, and Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program.

### America’s Gun Violence Epidemic – The Facts

Gun violence is a public health crisis in the United States with firearms and here’s WHY:

- Every year, over 36,000 Americans are killed in acts of gun violence and approximately 100,000 more are shot and injury.
- America’s gun death rate is 10 times higher than other high-income countries.
- 58% of American adults or someone they care for have experience gun violence in their lifetime – with survivors of gun violence experiencing lifelong medical, economic, and social impact.
- More than 22,000 Americans die from firearm suicide every year, leaving countless Americans to grieve the death of their loved ones.

### THE ASK:

- Support for the “Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019” ([H.R. 8](#)), which would require a background check on every gun sale or transfer, with certain defined exceptions.
- Support specific funding for the CDC to conduct epidemiological research on gun

### Prescription Drug Pricing and Cost – The Facts

The rising cost of prescription medication has continued to grow inexorably from year to year. Physicians experience and see first-hand the difficulty and burden high pharmaceutical costs have imposed on our patients, on physician practices, and the broader health care system.

- Federal payments for brand-name drugs in Part D, utilized by Medicare beneficiaries, increased 62% between 2011 and 2015 — while the number of actual prescriptions fell 17% over the same period.
- More than 300 generic drugs had at least one “extraordinary” price increase of 100% or more, according to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report last year.
- Pay-for-delay agrees, a practice in which drug companies pay a generic company not to launch a cheaper version of a drug, costs U.S. consumers and taxpayers \$3.5 billion in high drug costs each year.

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## THE ASK:

- Help reduce the cost of life-saving prescription drugs by supporting the “Creating and Restoring Equal Access to Equivalent Samples (CREATES) Act of 2019” ([S. 340/H.R. 965](#)).
- Consider the AMA’s call for increased pharmaceutical market competition, pharmaceutical supply chain transparency, and efforts to combat anticompetitive practices amongst pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), and health insurers.