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 injured.
• America’s gun death rate is 10 times higher than other high-income countries.
• 58% of American adults or someone they care for have experienced 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 violence.

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.
THE ASK:

- 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.