

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC FAMILY MEDICINE

Association of Departments of Family Medicine
Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors
North American Primary Care Research Group
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine



March 4, 2019

The Honorable Ron Kind
1502 Longworth House Office Bldg.
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Gallagher
1230 Longworth House Office Bldg.
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Kind and Gallagher:

On behalf of the Council of Academic Family Medicine (CAFM), including the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, Association of Departments of Family Medicine, Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors, the North American Primary Care Research Group, we thank you for introducing HR 1358, "Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act." This legislation is a small, but critically important, step to correct current Medicare Graduate Medical Education practices that restrict settings that are eligible to help train and produce physicians, especially in rural areas – where they are needed the most. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and give you our whole-hearted support for the legislation.

The proposed legislation would make minor, technical adjustments to the current Medicare graduate medical education (GME) policy for new teaching hospitals to allow hospitals to host a small number of resident rotators for short durations without setting a permanent full-time equivalent (FTE) resident cap or a Per Resident Amount (PRA).

The treatment of rotating residents under current law has inappropriately restricted the settings in which residents receive training. As the consequences of training rotators have become more widely known, hospitals have started to refuse resident rotations out of concern of triggering a low permanent cap or per resident amount, making it difficult for medical schools to place residents in the most academically and clinically appropriate settings. This is particularly a problem for training physicians in rural areas, as many rural hospitals hosted residents from urban or suburban areas that wished for a rural experience during residency.

This bill represents small, but very meaningful fixes to help remedy these issues. Without legislative action, GME rules will continue to limit residency training opportunities in the communities that need them most, exacerbate physician

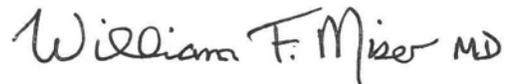
shortages, weaken the training that new physicians receive, and ultimately harm patients.

The CAFM organizations and our members are pleased to work with you to secure this legislation's enactment.

Sincerely,



Beat Steiner, MD
President
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine



Fred Miser, MD
President
Association of Family Medicine
Residency Directors



Kevin Grumbach, MD
President
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Judith Belle Brown, PhD
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