



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

July 30, 2014

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) which represents 115,900 physicians and medical students nationwide, thank you for your leadership in introducing legislation to invest significantly in the primary care physician workforce. The policies proposed in your draft bill are consistent with those advanced by the AAFP that would allow us to better meet the primary care workforce needs of our country.

Your bill would both improve Medicare graduate medical education transparency and better align the training environment with future practice environments for primary care physicians. It is vital that we increase our primary care physician training capacity in the face of a growing and aging population's demand for primary medical care. Furthermore it is important that we train primary care physicians in settings that are similar to those in which they will practice upon completion of their training. For that reason, we strongly support your effort to provide training opportunities outside of the legacy hospital-based GME system and appreciate your commitment to ensuring that such training sites have a predictable and appropriate funding source. We are also grateful that your bill would reauthorize the National Health Care Workforce Commission.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to transform the successful Teaching Health Center GME program as we move toward a sustainable funding stream for community-based primary care medical education programs. We commend your continued leadership in the effort to increase the number of primary care physicians and ensure Americans have access to the right care at the right time from the right health professional. If the AAFP can be of assistance, please feel free to have your staff contact Teresa Baker at tbaker@aafp.org or 202-232-9033 ext. 2560.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Cain, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

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