



April 19, 2019

The Honorable Ron Kind
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Kind:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 131,400 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to express the AAFP's support for the *Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act (HR 1358)*. The bill would change Medicare graduate medical education (GME) payment rules to allow the establishment of critical new residency programs in communities facing physician shortages, improving access for patients and resulting in better training opportunities for residents.

The legislation represents an important step toward addressing the nationwide shortage and maldistribution of family physicians and other primary care physicians by adjusting GME rules for hospitals to allow them to host a limited number of residents for short-term rotations without setting a permanent full-time equivalent (FTE) resident cap or a per resident amount (PRA). Medicare GME payments are limited based on a capped PRA multiplied by a capped number of residents or FTEs. Once set, a hospital's Medicare FTE cap and PRA are permanent. CMS has assigned PRAs and FTE caps to hospitals once they train even one resident rotator for a short duration effectively preventing that hospital from establishing residency program. Your bill would correct the inappropriate restriction on resident rotators which has resulted in low permanent FTE caps and PRAs for some hospitals.

The *Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act* represents a promising way to make progress on our national physician workforce problem, and we applaud you for your leadership. If you have any additional questions about the AAFP's views, please have your staff contact Teresa Baker, Senior Government Relations Representative, at tbaker@aafp.org or 202-655-4907.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Munger, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair

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