



January 30, 2019

The Honorable Susan Collins  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 25010

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Doug Jones  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Collins, Tester, Capito, and Jones:

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 support your legislation to reauthorize the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program. Thank you for your commitment to this important, innovative program.

The AAFP is pleased to support the *Training the Next Generation of Primary Care Doctors Act* of 2019 because it updates the THCGME program for five years, authorizes adequate and sustainable funding for existing residency programs, and supports expansion into rural and underserved communities. In addition, the legislation maintains the program's strong transparency and accountability requirements. The THCGME program directly addresses three major physician workforce challenges: the serious shortage of primary care physicians, geographic maldistribution of physician training, and the need to increase health care access for medically-underserved populations. Recognizing the importance of supplying well-trained primary care physicians into communities that need them most, we look forward to working with you to update and expand the THCGME program early this year.

Again, we are pleased to support this important legislation. For more information, please contact Sonya Clay, Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or [sclay@aafp.org](mailto:sclay@aafp.org).

Sincerely,

Michael L. Munger, MD, FAAFP  
Board Chair

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