



October 27, 2022

**RE: Train More Doctors Act of 2022**

Dear Members of the California Congressional Delegation:

The U.S. faces a projected shortage of between 37,800 and 124,000 physicians within 12 years, and the COVID-19 pandemic increased the number of physician retirements. The coming workforce shortages brought on by increased rates of retirement can only be addressed by training the next generation of physicians.

That's why, on behalf of our more than 400 member hospitals and health systems, the California Hospital Association is pleased to support the Train More Doctors Act of 2022 (H.R. 9156), which would extend the current Medicare graduate medical education residency cap timeline for teaching hospitals that have had their recruitment disrupted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Currently, teaching hospitals' residency slots are capped based on the fifth year of operation. However, the pandemic severely impacted hospitals in underserved areas in their ability to recruit physicians and build out residency programs. As students, faculty, and physicians were prevented from traveling or relocating during the public health emergency, teaching hospitals in the process of building out residency programs were challenged in establishing residency caps as planned prior to the pandemic. This bill would allow impacted teaching hospitals to build out residency programs to their full potential by adding two additional years to their cap-building period.

In California, this bill would address health equity by allowing a teaching hospital in a chronically underserved area additional time to train more doctors, who are likely to stay in the communities where they did their residency.

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the health care workforce in unprecedented ways, leading to workforce shortages as well as increased health care worker burnout, exhaustion, and trauma. Now more than ever, it is critical to support policies that will grow the workforce of the future. We urge you to support the Train More Doctors Act of 2022.

Sincerely,

/s/

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