

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Access to high-quality, affordable healthcare hinges on training the next generation of physicians, yet current Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding constraints jeopardize this critical pipeline.

Medicare caps on residency positions restrict the number of new physicians entering the workforce each year, despite a growing nationwide shortage. While medical school enrollment has expanded, residency slots have not kept pace, leaving graduates without the training required for board certification.

AAOS supports robust GME funding and urges Congress to significantly increase Medicare-supported residency positions and ensure equitable distribution across medical specialties, including orthopaedic surgery, to maintain timely access to care.

With physician shortages projected to reach up to 86,000 by 2036, particularly in rural and underserved communities, AAOS calls for strong federal support for physicians in training to strengthen the nation's healthcare infrastructure.



WHAT CONGRESS SHOULD DO



Support the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act (S.2439/H.R. 4731), which adds 2,000 new Medicare-supported GME slots per year over seven years, totaling 14,000 new residency positions.



Support the Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act (S.942), which would provide interest-free deferment on student loans for individuals in medical and dental residency programs, reducing financial burdens during their training by pausing both principal payments and interest accrued during training.



Urge the Department of Education to preserve adequate federal student loan access for medical students considering recent changes under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which eliminates the Grad PLUS loan program and imposes a \$200,000 lifetime borrowing cap for professional students beginning July 1, 2026.

WHAT AAOS MEMBERS CAN DO



Ask your Member of Congress to strengthen the physician workforce.

ACT NOW

