



March 13, 2024

The Honorable Brad Schneider
300 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Valadao
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Annie Kuster
2201 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Carey
1433 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schneider, Kuster, Valadao, Carey, and Kelly:

On behalf of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Advocacy Coalition, the over 40 undersigned organizations offer our support for the Substance Use Disorder Workforce Act of 2024 (H.R. 7050). This thoughtful, bipartisan legislation would provide Medicare support for an additional 1,000 new graduate medical education (GME) positions over five years in hospitals that have, or are in the process of establishing, accredited residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, or pain medicine and their prerequisite programs. We greatly appreciate your commitment to advancing policies that would strengthen and expand the health care workforce serving on the front lines of the nation's addiction and overdose epidemic.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in 2022 only 24% of patients aged 12 or older who needed treatment for a substance use disorder received that treatment.¹ Additionally, more than 109,000 drug overdose deaths occurred in the U.S. in the 12 months ending in February 2023, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.² This crisis is compounded by a physician shortage that could reach up to 124,000 physicians by 2024. It is clear that we must act to train more physicians in order to meet the needs of patients across the country. This legislation can help us meet this need and strengthen the physician workforce by funding new, targeted residency positions.

¹ <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt42731/2022-nsduh-main-highlights.pdf>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

The Substance Use Disorder Workforce Act of 2024 is a targeted and important step that Congress must take to help ensure a robust physician workforce that can deliver high-quality care to those suffering from substance use disorders. We look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Association of American Medical Colleges
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
America's Essential Hospitals
American Academy of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry (AACDP)
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Board of Medical Specialties
American Board of Preventive Medicine
American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology
American College of Academic Addiction Medicine
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Geriatrics Society
American Medical Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Educators in Plastic Surgery
Association of Academic Psychiatrists
Association of Bioethics Program Directors
Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology
Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers
California Hospital Association
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA)
Healthcare Association of New York State
Healthcare Leadership Council
Medical Group Management Association
National Rural Health Association
Premier Inc.
Society of Behavioral Medicine

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Society of General Internal Medicine

Society of Neurological Surgeons

Stanford University Addiction Medicine Fellowship

The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania

Vizient, Inc.