



July 27, 2023

**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
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aamc.org

The Honorable Tim Kaine  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Costa  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Kaine and Representative Costa:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to thank you for reintroducing the *Expanding Medical Education Act*, which would authorize HRSA grants to enhance current and establish new regional medical campuses (RMCs) and would prioritize minority-serving institutions (MSIs), those that propose to establish or expand schools in under-resourced or historically marginalized communities, or areas with shortages of health professionals where no such schools exist. The AAMC is pleased to support this legislation.

The AAMC is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Its members are all 157 U.S. medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education; 13 accredited Canadian medical schools; approximately 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and the millions of individuals across academic medicine, including more than 193,000 full-time faculty members, 96,000 medical students, 153,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences. Following a 2022 merger, the Alliance of Academic Health Centers and the Alliance of Academic Health Centers International broadened the AAMC's U.S. membership and expanded its reach to international academic health centers.

The AAMC continues to project that physician demand will grow faster than supply (primarily driven by a growing, aging U.S. population) leading to a projected total physician shortage up to 124,000 physicians by 2034. Shortages in the physician supply will impact patients, particularly those living in rural, frontier, island or non-contiguous settings, and other under-resourced communities. Moreover, many of these communities already are feeling the impact of shortages. The AAMC's "Health Care Utilization Equity" analysis finds that if under-resourced populations were to experience the same health care use patterns as populations with fewer barriers to access, the U.S. would need an additional 102,400 to 180,400 physicians just to meet *current* demand.<sup>1</sup>

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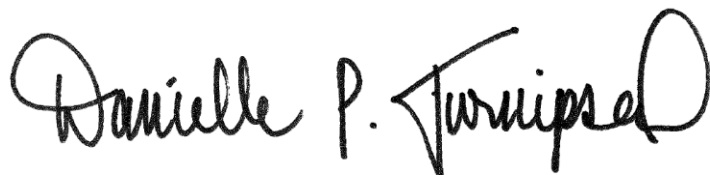
<sup>1</sup> [The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections From 2019 to 2034](#), Prepared for the AAMC by IHS Markit Ltd., June 2021.

We appreciate the Expanding Medical Education Act would help reduce physician shortages by bolstering the pathway in rural and historically marginalized areas and exposing more future providers to these settings. Regional medical campuses (RMCs) are important settings for medical schools to expand their reach and help fulfill their unique missions. Approximately 34% of medical schools already have at least one branch campus.<sup>2</sup> RMCs often have targeted missions, such as training future providers in primary care and in rural and under-resourced settings. The funds authorized in your bill would help support efforts to expand enrollment and retain students from underrepresented backgrounds, develop and expand curriculum, construct new branch campuses, plan for accreditation, recruit new faculty and staff, and modernize and expand infrastructure.

Additionally, we appreciate the legislation's priority for institutions in medically underserved communities or HPSAs where no medical school or branch campus is based, for MSIs, and/or institutions recruiting students and faculty from underrepresented backgrounds. A diverse faculty is crucial in recruiting and retaining future physicians from underrepresented backgrounds and leads to more culturally conscious providers and care.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to grow, diversify, and strengthen the health workforce. We look forward to continuing to work with you as the legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle P. Turnipseed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danielle" and last name "Turnipseed" clearly legible.

Danielle Turnipseed, JD, MHSA, MPP  
AAMC Chief Public Policy Officer

cc: David J. Skorton, MD,  
President and CEO

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<sup>2</sup> Association of American Medical Colleges. Regional Campuses at US Medical Schools. Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) Annual Questionnaire Part II, <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/curriculum-reports/interactive-data/regional-campuses-us-medical-schools>.