



DOC Act (S. 1958 / H.R.3671) Talking Points

Role of Primary Care

- Primary care accounts for 35% of all health care visits, yet only receive about 5% of health care expenditures.
- Primary care is only health care component where an increased supply is associated with improved population health and more equitable health outcomes.

Primary Care Physician Shortage

- While the current system excels at educating highly specialized physicians and researchers, the primary care physician shortage prevents the U.S. from taking advantage of the better outcomes and lower per capita costs associated with robust primary care systems.
- The U.S. is facing a significant shortage of primary care physicians. We will need up to 48,000 additional primary care physicians by 2034 to meet the health care needs of our growing and aging population.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgency of building and financing a robust, well-trained, and accessible primary care system in our country.

Permanently Authorize the THCGME Program

- The Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program is vital to addressing the shortage of primary care physicians and expanding the geographic distribution of medical education.
- The THCGME program has a proven track record of achieving its legislative mandate to train the next generation of primary care physicians. Since it began, in 2011, the THCGME program has trained more than 1,148 primary care physicians and dentists, 65% of whom are family physicians.
- THCGME graduates are more likely to continue practicing primary care medicine and serving in medically underserved communities than those in Medicare GME-supported programs.
- Without permanent federal funding, most of the THCGME programs would be unlikely to maintain residency recruitment and enrollment, threatening the initial program investments and even the viability of the program itself.
- **Please co-sponsor the Doctors of Community (DOC) Act (S. 1958 / H.R. 3671), which would permanently authorize and expand the THCGME program.**