



Support Physician Training in Rural and Underserved Areas through the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program



BACKGROUND

The Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program is a successful training program that fills critical primary care gaps where they are most needed, especially in rural and underserved communities.

There are 81 Teaching Health Center programs in nearly 30 states with nearly 1,200 medical residents handling more than an estimated one million patient visits annually. 82% of THC graduates remain in primary care practice, compared to 23% of traditional GME graduates. Additionally, 55% of THC graduates practice in underserved communities, compared to 26% of traditional GME graduates.



PROBLEM



Funding for the THCGME program will expire on September 30, 2025, unless Congress enacts legislation to reauthorize funding for the program.

Short-term funding for the THCGME program jeopardizes the program, recruitment of medical students to train in rural communities, and access to care. Several THCGME programs have opted not to fill all residency positions for the academic year beginning Fall 2025 due to uncertainty in funding.

SOLUTION



The THCGME program needs robust, long-term-funding in order to continue its vital training of physicians in rural and underserved areas.

Support any legislation that would provide this stability in a multi-year reauthorization of the THCGME Program.