

RESOLUTION

Subject: Economic Development Funds to Attract Physicians to Rural and Underserved Areas

Submitted by: Lexington Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, medical school tuition has increased significantly in the past 25 years; and

WHEREAS, living expenses for students have also increased significantly during the same timeframe; and

WHEREAS, the median 4-year cost of attendance to public medical school in the U.S. is \$231,384; and

WHEREAS, the median education debt of graduates of U.S. public medical schools is \$180,000; and

WHEREAS, education debt and its attendant repayment are thought to play a key role in the specialty choice of medical students and their place of practice; and

WHEREAS, there is a mal-distribution of physicians in Kentucky such that 43% of the population lives in rural and underserved areas and only 28% of physicians practice in such areas; and

WHEREAS, considerable debt can be a deterrent to practicing in a rural and underserved area; and

WHEREAS, a physician is known to have an economic impact of \$860,000 - \$2.5 million depending on the specialty of the physician; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Kentucky Medical Association advocate for the use of economic development funds to attract physicians to rural and underserved areas.