

RESOLUTION

Subject: Physician Workforce
Submitted by: KMA Board of Trustees
Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, Kentucky citizens suffer from lack of access to physicians; and

WHEREAS, physician recruitment is hampered by low reimbursement rates, high educational debt levels carried by physician recruits, and increasing levels of physician burnout and administrative burdens; and

WHEREAS, the federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997 capped the number of residents that each teaching hospital can claim for Medicare payment purposes based on how many resident physicians were included on the hospitals' 1996 cost reports; and

WHEREAS, because of caps imposed by the federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997, Kentucky lacks an adequate number of physician Graduate Medical Education or "residency" positions for their populations; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2022 Physician Report published by the Kentucky Office of Rural Health, the number of physicians in Kentucky decreased by 590 between 2019 and 2022; and

WHEREAS, using primary care as an example, the Robert Graham Center states that in order for Kentucky to maintain the status quo in primary care, the state will require an additional 415 primary care physicians by 2030 or a 15.2 percent increase; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of physicians also impacts the economies of local communities and the state as a whole; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent AMA study, physicians support 94,338 jobs in Kentucky, generate state and local tax revenue of \$557.2M, and have a total of \$15.4 billion in economic activity, with each one having an economic impact of \$1.9M; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA supports medical education loan repayment programs as a physician recruitment tool and encourages the development of state and federal loan repayment initiatives to address the critical physician workforce and access to care issues plaguing the state; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA advocate for state budget appropriations designated to create new and expand existing Graduate Medical Education slots in Kentucky.