

1199SEIU & GNYHA HEALTHCARE EDUCATION PROJECT OPPOSES PROPOSED CUTS TO GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

THE ISSUE

- Congress is considering cuts to Graduate Medical Education (GME), the funding that enables hospitals to train the next generation of doctors.
- The timing could not be worse: with life expectancy longer than ever, an aging population, and a third of all doctors expected to retire in the next decade, we need more doctors, not fewer.
- According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), by 2025 the demand for physicians will exceed supply by 46,000 to 90,000 physicians.
- Since teaching hospitals care for a disproportionate share of low-income patients, GME cuts would jeopardize access to care for vulnerable communities.
- Slashing Medicare GME payments is short-sighted and will jeopardize patient access to care.

WHAT CONGRESS NEEDS TO DO

- Ensure that hospitals have the funding they need to train tomorrow's physicians by rejecting GME cuts.
- Cosponsor the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2015 (H.R. 2124/S.1148), which supports teaching hospitals and their essential role in the health care system.

1199SEIU & GNYHA HEALTHCARE EDUCATION PROJECT OPPOSES PROPOSED CAP ON MEDICARE HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT PAYMENTS

THE ISSUE

- Congress is considering capping Medicare payments to hospitals for certain outpatient services at the significantly lower rate paid to physicians for providing the same services in their private offices. These “site-neutral” Medicare payment cuts ignore the higher costs of providing these services in hospital settings and will:
 - Compromise the ability of hospitals to deliver quality patient care, especially for the uninsured and underinsured
 - Threaten the viability of hospital outpatient clinics, which care for vulnerable populations
- **Hospital outpatient sites have already been cut.** Just last month, Congress passed and President Obama signed a budget agreement that includes a significant reimbursement cut specific to “new” off-campus hospital outpatient sites.

WHAT CONGRESS NEEDS TO DO

- Reject additional funding cuts to Medicare hospital outpatient payments so our hospitals can continue to care for the most vulnerable populations.
- Support legislation that will lessen the impact of last month’s site-neutral cuts by protecting hospitals that are currently developing new sites and permit hospitals to relocate existing sites in the future.