



March 13, 2024

The Honorable Brad Schneider  
300 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Valadao  
2465 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Annie Kuster  
2201 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Carey  
1433 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly  
1707 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schneider, Kuster, Valadao, Carey, and Kelly:

On behalf of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Advocacy Coalition, the over 40 undersigned organizations offer our support for the Substance Use Disorder Workforce Act of 2024 (H.R. 7050). This thoughtful, bipartisan legislation would provide Medicare support for an additional 1,000 new graduate medical education (GME) positions over five years in hospitals that have, or are in the process of establishing, accredited residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, or pain medicine and their prerequisite programs. We greatly appreciate your commitment to advancing policies that would strengthen and expand the health care workforce serving on the front lines of the nation's addiction and overdose epidemic.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in 2022 only 24% of patients aged 12 or older who needed treatment for a substance use disorder received that treatment.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, more than 109,000 drug overdose deaths occurred in the U.S. in the 12 months ending in February 2023, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.<sup>2</sup> This crisis is compounded by a physician shortage that could reach up to 124,000 physicians by 2024. It is clear that we must act to train more physicians in order to meet the needs of patients across the country. This legislation can help us meet this need and strengthen the physician workforce by funding new, targeted residency positions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt42731/2022-nsduh-main-highlights.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

The Substance Use Disorder Workforce Act of 2024 is a targeted and important step that Congress must take to help ensure a robust physician workforce that can deliver high-quality care to those suffering from substance use disorders. We look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Association of American Medical Colleges  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)  
America's Essential Hospitals  
American Academy of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry (AACDP)  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Board of Medical Specialties  
American Board of Preventive Medicine  
American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology  
American College of Academic Addiction Medicine  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Educators in Plastic Surgery  
Association of Academic Psychiatrists  
Association of Bioethics Program Directors  
Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology  
Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers  
California Hospital Association  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA)  
Healthcare Association of New York State  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Medical Group Management Association  
National Rural Health Association  
Premier Inc.  
Society of Behavioral Medicine

Reps. Schneider, Kuster, Valadao, Carey, and Kelly

March 13, 2024

Page 3

Society of General Internal Medicine

Society of Neurological Surgeons

Stanford University Addiction Medicine Fellowship

The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania

Vizient, Inc.