



August 18, 2017

The Honorable Dean Heller
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Heller and Nelson:

On behalf of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), I am writing to thank you for introducing S. 1301, the "Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act." HLC is pleased to support this legislation.

HLC is a coalition of chief executives from all disciplines within American healthcare. Our members – the nation's leading hospitals, academic health centers, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, laboratories, biotech firms, health product distributors, pharmacies, post-acute care providers, and information technology companies – are committed to advancing a consumer-centered healthcare system that values innovation, accessibility, and affordability.

In regards to the healthcare workforce, HLC strongly believes that an adequate supply of well-educated and highly trained physicians in both primary and specialty care is necessary to serve our country's growing and aging population. Unfortunately, even as the U.S. is experiencing expanded coverage and in the midst of changes to improve health outcomes and reduce costs, it is facing a projected shortage of 105,000 physicians by 2030. This shortage could lengthen wait times to see a physician, which in turn could harm the health of patients. While medical schools have increased their enrollments, and new medical and osteopathic schools have been established, the number of Medicare-funded residency slots has been capped at 1996 levels. Your bipartisan legislation would help alleviate the physician shortage by providing Medicare funding for an additional 15,000 residency positions over the course of five years.

Thank you again for your leadership on this critical issue. HLC looks forward to continuing to work with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Witchev at (202) 449-3435.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary R. Grealy".

Mary R. Grealy
President