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3 Title: Primary Care Physician Shortage
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5 Introduced by: Cheryl Farmer, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation
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7 Original Author: Cheryl Farmer, MD
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee E
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11 House Action: **AMEND**
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14 Whereas, there is significant evidence that optimal health care outcomes are achieved and
15 optimal health system efficiency and cost effectiveness result when at least 40-50 percent of the
16 physician workforce is composed of primary care physicians, and
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18 Whereas, preventive care, care coordination for the chronically ill, and continuity of care can
19 achieve significant cost savings, and
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21 Whereas, socioeconomic and racial disparities in health care outcomes are dramatically reduced
22 when there is an appropriately sized primary care physician workforce, and
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24 Whereas, the U.S. population has increased by almost 50 million in the past 20 years, the “Baby
25 Boomer” cohort is reaching old age, and the Affordable Care Act has improved access to health care for
26 millions of Americans; thereby, resulting in a projected shortfall of between 12,500 and 31,100 primary
27 care physicians as the total demand for primary care physicians is projected to grow by at least 14
28 percent by 2020, and
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30 Whereas, the number of medical students choosing to go into primary care has been decreasing
31 over the last several decades due to lower pay, longer hours, perceived higher stress when compared to
32 other specialties, more paperwork, and less time to see patients, and
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34 Whereas, there has been no increase in the number of residency slots in internal and family
35 medicine over the past 20 years; therefore be it
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37 RESOLVED: That MSMS support current American Medical Association policy around addressing
38 physician shortage including loan repayment residency positions, payment and advocate for 1) generous
39 loan repayment options for residents who go into primary care specialties; and 2) expanding the number
40 of primary care specialty openings by increasing the overall number of residency position.
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43 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

Reference(s):

1. <https://www.aamc.org/download/426260/data/physiciansupplyanddemandthrough2025keyfindings.pdf>
2. <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/supplydemand/usworkforce/primarycare/>
3. <http://thehealthcareblog.com/blog/2014/11/04/solving-the-primary-care-shortage/>
4. <http://www.hrsa.gov/advisorycommittees/bhpradvisory/cogme/reports/twentiethreport.pdf>
5. <https://www.aapa.org/cme/>