

GREATER NEW YORK HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION


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MEMBER LETTER

May
One
2019

ML-48

TO: Chief Executive Officers

FROM: Kenneth E. Raske, President 

RE: GNYHA-Supported Opioid Workforce Bill Reintroduced

A bipartisan group of House members has reintroduced the Opioid Workforce Act of 2019 to bolster the health care workforce's ability to respond to the opioid crisis. Strongly supported by GNYHA, the bill would fund 1,000 additional residency positions in hospitals that already have or are in the process of establishing approved residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, or pain management (see [GNYHA summary](#)).

GNYHA, the Association of American Medical Colleges, and Congressional staff worked together to develop the legislation and ensure that it was introduced by a bipartisan and geographically diverse group of House members: Brad Schneider (D-IL), Susan Brooks (R-IN), Elise Stefanik (R-NY), and Ann Kuster (D-NH). GNYHA thanks them for their leadership on this important issue.

While GNYHA rarely supports limited, specialty-specific solutions to national physician workforce shortages, we recognize the enormity of the opioid crisis and believe the Opioid Workforce Act of 2019 would significantly increase an extremely vulnerable population's access to high-quality care.

The Balanced Budget Act (BBA) of 1997 imposed caps on the number of residents for which teaching hospitals are eligible to receive Medicare direct graduate medical education (GME) and indirect medical education (IME) reimbursement. The Opioid Workforce Act of 2019 would allow for a targeted expansion of residency positions above the BBA caps.

GNYHA also supports the bipartisan Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2019 (H.R. 1763 & S. 348), which would increase the number of Medicare-reimbursed residency slots by 15,000 over five years, allowing teaching hospitals to expand their residency programs in the many specialties for which cap relief is needed.

By prioritizing additional support for specialties experiencing shortages, these bills will help teaching hospitals meet local and national workforce needs, including the wide range of disciplines needed to address the opioid epidemic.



GNYHA is a dynamic, constantly evolving center for health care advocacy and expertise, but our core mission—helping hospitals deliver the finest patient care in the most cost-effective way—never changes.

GNYHA MEMBER LETTER

GNYHA Advocacy

We will soon contact Congressional offices and ask them to support the Opioid Workforce Act of 2019, and we encourage you to do the same.

Please contact GNYHA's David Rich (rich@gnyha.org), Jon Cooper (jcooper@gnyha.org), or Tim Johnson (tjohnson@gnyha.org) if you have questions.

cc: Government Affairs Forum
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