

GREATER NEW YORK HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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January 29, 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:

I write to express Greater New York Hospital Association's (GNYHA) strong support for the Substance Use Disorder Workforce Act of 2024 (H.R. 7050). This bipartisan legislation would create 1,000 new Medicare-supported graduate medical education (GME) slots over five years for hospitals with addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, or pain management programs. It would also meaningfully increase an extremely vulnerable population's access to care.

GME expansion has been a top GNYHA advocacy priority for decades. Virtually all of our 260+ members across the New York metropolitan area are teaching hospitals that annually produce thousands of new physicians for the entire nation. One in eight current medical residents in the US trains in New York's vast system of academic medical centers and other teaching hospitals. 17% of all currently practicing physicians completed their GME in New York.

In 1996, Congress capped the number of Medicare-supported residency slots when it was believed the United States trained a *surplus* of physicians. Teaching hospitals have since struggled to produce enough doctors to keep pace with the accelerating health care delivery demand. Over 25 years later, the nation now faces dire physician shortages across every specialty, with a projected shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034. Demand for psychiatric service providers alone, including those trained to treat addiction and substance use disorder, may exceed supply by 6,090-15,600 psychiatrists by as soon as next year.

Congress took steps to alleviate the physician shortage by adding 1,200 new GME slots in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, including 100 slots dedicated to psychiatry and psychiatric services. But these long-overdue investments fall far short of the amount needed to fully address the dual crises of the opioid epidemic and the worsening physician shortage. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration estimates that only 24% of people who needed substance abuse treatment in 2022 received it. Drug overdose deaths are at all-time highs and continue to climb, with over 109,000 overdose deaths reported in the 12 months ending in February 2023. Without additional



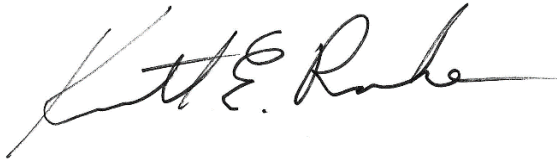
GNYHA is a dynamic, constantly evolving center for health care advocacy and expertise, but our core mission—helping hospitals deliver the finest patient care in the most cost-effective way—never changes.

investments in GME, individuals and communities hit hardest by the opioid crisis will continue to bear the brunt of access issues stemming from the depleting physician workforce.

No patient in need of mental health care should have to go without it. Amidst an ongoing mental health crisis intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress must build on its recent progress tackling the physician shortage and pass the Substance Abuse Disorder Workforce Act. This sensible bill will strengthen our communities and advance the nation's critical health needs.

Thank you for your commitment to bolstering the health care workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth E. Raske". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kenneth E. Raske

President