



OREGON ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
**MAKING HEALTH PRIMARY**

February 18, 2019

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Wyden,

On behalf of more than 1,600 family physicians, residents and medical students in Oregon, we at the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians write to support the "Training the Next Generation of Primary Care Doctors Act." This legislation updates the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program for five years, authorizes adequate and sustainable funding for existing residency programs, and supports expansion into rural and underserved communities.

The OAFP is engaged in efforts to expand and secure training opportunities for family physicians on many fronts. We believe this legislation is important because the THCGME program funds residencies for medical school graduates committed to working in underserved communities and is credited with providing community-based training to family physicians. The THCGME program is vital to addressing the shortage of primary care physicians and the geographic maldistribution of physicians.

Though the THCGME program does not currently have sites in Oregon, Oregon's family medicine residency programs are working hard to build innovative paths to expand their ability to help train the next generation of family physicians, and the funding provided through renewing this program is an essential part of those plans. As you know very well, the physician shortage in Oregon is a growing problem, and the challenge of increasing and ensuring health care access for rural and medically underserved populations is acute.

We urge you to support the "Training the Next Generation of Primary Care Doctors Act" to update the THCGME program immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robyn Liu, MD".

Robyn Liu, MD, FAAFP  
President, Oregon Academy of Family Physicians