Graduate Medical Education (GME) At Risk in Michigan 2012 Budget

Urge Legislative Committee to Restore GME Funding

The Michigan House and Senate recently passed their budgets for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, each decimating state resources for graduate medical education (GME). The Senate eliminated all $167 million in GME funds, while the House included a 40% reduction ($67 million).

As you know, GME provides critical funding to our state’s teaching hospitals to help offset the costs of residency training programs for physicians, including psychiatrists. These teaching hospitals and residents provide significant health care services to Medicaid and uninsured patients.

If passed, the current FY 2012 budget proposals would likely force teaching hospitals to reduce the number of residency slots available. This decision would make access to physicians more difficult and exacerbate the state’s physician shortage, including child and adolescent psychiatrists.

The final budget details are now being worked out in Conference Committee. We urge all Michigan AACAP members to call or email the legislators below TODAY and urge them to restore GME funding in the FY 2012 budget. You can use these talking points to shape your message:

- I am [NAME], a child and adolescent psychiatrist practicing in [NAME OF CITY/TOWN].
- As you deliberate on the final budget for FY 2012, I urge you to restore funding for graduate medical education (GME) to FY 2011 levels ($167 million).
- GME is NOT tuition funding. GME funding is provided to teaching hospitals to offset the costs of operating medical residency programs for physicians.
- Residents at teaching hospitals provide needed care to our state’s Medicaid and uninsured patients, including charity care.
- Cutting GME funding would reduce access to health care for our state’s vulnerable populations, including Medicaid and underinsured patients.
- Michigan is already experiencing a shortage of physicians, including child and adolescent psychiatrists. Cutting GME funding will exacerbate the state’s psychiatric workforce shortage at a time when families are under even greater stress due to the economy and the need for mental health services is that much more acute.
- Training residents at Michigan’s teaching hospitals incentivizes physician to remain in Michigan, many who move to underserved areas throughout the state.
- While the federal Affordable Care Act provided increases in GME funding for states, these increases did NOT include funding for general psychiatry or child psychiatry training.
Please contact the following legislators with this information:

Sen. John Moolenaar (R - Midland)
senjmoolenaar@senate.mi.gov
517-373-7946

Sen. Roger Kahn (R - Saginaw)
senrkahn@senate.mi.gov
517-373-1760

Rep. Peter MacGregor
(R - Rockford--near Grand Rapids)
petermacgregor@house.mi.gov
517-373-0218

Rep. Matt Lori
(R - Constantine--near Three Rivers)
mattlori@house.mi.gov
517-373-0832

Sen. Vince Gregory (D - Southfield)
senvgregory@senate.mi.gov
517-373-7888

Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D - Detroit)
rashidatlaib@house.mi.gov
517-373-0823

Rep. Chuck Moss (R - Birmingham)
chuckmoss@house.mi.gov
517-373-8670