



## COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS

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March 25, 2019

The Honorable Bob Menendez  
528 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Minority Leader Schumer, Senator Boozman and Senator Menendez:

On behalf of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and its members providing diagnostic services to patients across the country, I write in support of the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2019. We appreciate your leadership in introducing this important piece of legislation.

The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2019 would help alleviate the physician shortage by lifting the graduate medical education (GME) funding cap and expanding the number of residency slots, including for specialties with a demonstrated shortage. The legislation would phase in 15,000 additional Medicare-supported residency slots over five years and would set aside a percentage of the slots for shortage specialties.

For pathology, studies show a projected shortage of trained pathologists in the short-term and long-term. For forensic pathology, a current shortage exists that has been exacerbated by the opioid crisis given the role forensic pathologists play in investigating drug overdose deaths and certifying the cause of death. While these slots won't be apportioned to forensic pathology, they will increase the number of graduate medical students thereby increasing the pool from which to draw the next generation of pathologists, including forensic pathologists. As such, the CAP strongly supports this bill.

As the world's largest organization of board-certified pathologists and a leading provider of laboratory accreditation and proficiency testing programs, the CAP serves patients, pathologists, and the public by fostering and advocating excellence in the practice of pathology and laboratory medicine worldwide. Pathologists are physicians whose diagnoses drive care decisions made by patients, primary care physicians, and surgeons. When other physicians need more information about a patient's disease, they often turn to pathologists who provide specific diagnoses for each patient. The pathologist's diagnosis and value is recognized across the care continuum.

Thank you again for your leadership. The CAP looks forward to this important bill becoming law this Congress. If your staff has any questions, please feel free to have them contact Darren Fenwick at [dfenwic@cap.org](mailto:dfenwic@cap.org).

Sincerely,

Donald S. Karcher, MD, FCAP  
Chair, Council on Government and Professional Affairs