

Grow the Physician Workforce in Texas

PRIORITY

Texas should invest in policies and funding to stabilize the physician workforce and grow Graduate Medical Education (GME) so Texas graduates can train in the state and meet the health care needs of our rapidly growing population.

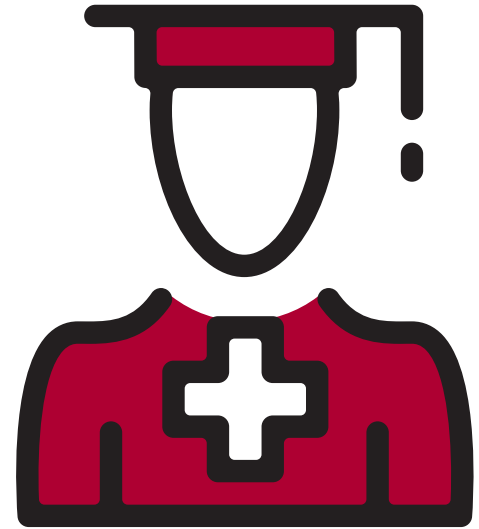
BACKGROUND

Texas' population, at 31.3 million in 2024, is projected to reach 35 million by 2030. During the past year, an average of 2,122 people were added to the state each day.

Physicians are uniquely qualified to lead the health care team. They provide the highest level of medical care to Texans, and all Texans, regardless of geographic location, deserve that.

TMA RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Stabilize physician practice viability and patient access** to medical care by adopting policies that:
 - Pay physicians fairly to help keep practice doors open.
 - Safeguard physician practice liability protections.
 - Promote physician autonomy in medical decision-making.
- **Keep pace with Texas record-setting population gains** by allocating *additional* funds in the 2026-27 budget for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's physician development programs:
 - \$66 million for the State GME Expansion Grant Program to maintain residency positions created through the program to date, and to maintain the 1.1-1 state target ratio.
 - \$3 million to continue the State Rural Resident Training Grant Program to prepare future physicians for practice in rural Texas.
- **Ensure sufficient state formula funding** to medical schools to sustain the state's support for medical education and help offset the rising faculty cost for training residents.
- **Maintain robust physician workforce data collection and analysis** by the Texas Health Professions Resource Center at the Texas Department of State Health Services to monitor the impact of the pandemic on physician supply and distribution, and growing physician demand.



Graduate Medical Education is Key to Texas Physician Growth

Texas has 9% of the U.S. population but only 7.5% of the nation's active physicians. The ratios of patient care physicians per 100,000 population remain among the lowest in the country, ranking 42nd for active physicians (all specialties), 47th for primary care physicians, and 46th for general surgeons.

With seven new medical schools since 2016, Texas needs more residency positions to maintain the target ratio of 1.1-to-1 first-year GME slots per medical school graduate.



Physicians Caring for Texans

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