



# H.R. 3451: THE CREATING ADDITIONAL RESIDENCY EXPANSION (CARE) ACT

This bill expands the Teaching Health Center (THC) Graduate Medical Education (GME) program, by creating new residency centers and expanding existing programs. This will increase THCGME residencies in high-need areas, and is one practical effort to help train and retain physicians in physician shortage and medically underserved areas.

## Background:

- The THCGME program was created by the Affordable Care Act in 2010 to address the shortage of primary care physicians in rural and medically underserved communities.
- The program currently supports 742 residents at 59 Teaching Health Centers.
- A significant portion of physicians stay and practice where they completed their residency. Because the THCGME program serves medically underserved and rural areas, residents in these programs are more likely to stay and practice in these areas.

## CARE Act Specifics:

- This bill expands the THCGME program by a total of 20 new centers/programs, at least 10 must be entirely new centers for residency programs, and the other 10 can either expand existing programs or be entirely new centers.
- The expansion centers are funded at \$19 million for FY2019 and \$38 million for FY2020.
- This will fund a total of 240 new residency slots/residents.
- Prioritizes counties with a 35% or higher Medicaid population.

## Overview:

- The THCGME program is critical to addressing physician shortages in medically underserved areas.
- This bill expands the program to cover more areas.
- It ensures new centers will be created in areas that need them the most.
- This bill prioritizes areas with high amounts of Medicaid recipients.
- This is a critical piece to addressing the overall physician shortage in California's Central Valley.