

Medical Directors

Andrew Schmidt, M.D.,
Chief Medical Officer
Daniel.Hoody@hcmcd.org
612-873-9935

Thomas Klemond, MD
Vice-President Medical Affairs
Thomas.Klemond@hcmcd.org
612-873-6422

Meghan M. Walsh, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief Academic Officer
Meghan.Walsh@hcmcd.org
612-873-3418

Director of Operations

Suzanne Schwartz
Suzanne.Schwartz@hcmcd.org
612-873-4428

Dear Chair Wiklund and Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

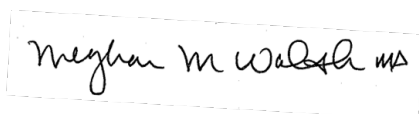
I am writing to express my wholehearted support for **SF4946** to increase federal support for Graduate Medical Education (GME) in Minnesota. As a member of the Governor's Task force for the Future of Academic Medicine, I believe that investing in GME is vital for the future of healthcare in our state.

HRSA projects a national shortage of 68,020 full-time equivalent (FTE) primary care physicians by the year 2036.¹ Burnout, rural shortages, and an aging population further exacerbate this problem. Minnesota is projected to be short 2,260 providers, and 1,187 primary care physicians by 2030. By providing funding for GME, we are not only investing in the education and training of future physicians but also in the overall health and well-being of our population. ¹<https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/workforce-projections>

There are several compelling reasons why state legislatures should support additional federal funding for GME:

1. Enhancing Healthcare Quality: Minnesota is one of the highest performing states in the nation for healthcare quality, cost and outcomes. Residents who train in Minnesota, are trained to practice high value, cost-conscious care and will impact the outcomes of their patients well into the future. Where you train matters, and Minnesota is one of the best.
2. Economic Benefits: GME programs contribute significantly to our state's economy by attracting medical students, faculty, and researchers. These programs create jobs, stimulate local economies, and foster innovation in healthcare delivery and medical research.
3. Maintaining Academic Excellence: Academic medical centers and teaching hospitals play a vital role in medical education, research, and patient care. Federal funding for GME supports these institutions, allowing them to continue providing world-class education and training to medical students and residents. This funding allows for integrated wellbeing programs for training physicians, research protections, high quality library resources and cutting-edge simulation centers and technology.
4. Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure: GME funding enables teaching hospitals to invest in state-of-the-art facilities, technology, and resources, which ultimately benefits patients and communities by improving access to advanced medical treatments and services.

In conclusion, investing in Graduate Medical Education is an investment in the future of healthcare in our state. I urge you to support efforts to secure federal funding for GME and to advocate for this policy that will strengthen our healthcare workforce and improve patient outcomes.



Meghan M Walsh MD MPH
Chief Academic and Research Officer, Hennepin Healthcare
Associate Dean of Faculty and Professor of Medicine, University of Minnesota
Meghan.Walsh@hcmcd.org