*Below is a sample letter to the editor you can use to draw attention to the need to preserve federal funding for GME programs.*

* *Letters are most effective when submitted in response to a specific article or editorial on medical education or other related topic that has been published in your newspaper. Simply add a line at the beginning of the letter referencing the original article by name and the date it ran.*
* *You may choose to make edits to personalize, but it is best not to significantly increase the length of the letter.*
* *Be sure to delete this guidance section before sending your letter.*
* *To submit the letter to a newspaper in your city, call or check the newspaper’s web site for specific instructions.*

*Thank you for your help in sharing this important message in your community.*

Dear XXXX,

As a [Medical Student / Resident Physician / Physician] at[INSERT MEDICAL SCHOOL / HOSPITAL], I know first-hand the impact Medicare financing for Graduate Medical Education (GME) has on physician education and access to care for patients. GME funding provides medical school graduates, or residents, the opportunity to complete the required years of clinical training necessary to obtain a medical license. During this clinical training, residents provide needed care for 1 out of every 5 hospitalized patients, including our seniors, veterans and patients in underserved communities.

With a growing demand for health care services, cuts to federal funding for physician residency programs will only worsen physician shortages across the country. Workforce experts predict a physician shortage of 62,900 as soon as 2015 that will increase to 130,000 by 2025.This shortage increases demand on our health care delivery system as more seniors begin to join the Medicare program and newly insured Americans seek access to care.

Congress can help alleviate this problem and protect our most vulnerable patients by retaining Medicare support and federal funding for GME. A healthy nation must maintain access to care for patients and address physician shortages by preserving funding for physician residency programs.

For more information on this vital issue, please visit the American Medical Association’s GME website: www.SaveGME.org

Sincerely,

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