

Talking Points

Support the Neurology Workforce

Ask: Cosponsor/thank you for cosponsoring the Resident Physician Shortage Act of 2021 (S. 834/H.R. 2256) and the Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act (S. 1810/H.R. 3541) to support and strengthen the neurology workforce.

Resident Physician Shortage Act of 2021 (S. 834/H.R. 2256)

- Introduced in the Senate by Sens. Menendez (D-NJ), Boozman (R-AK), and Schumer (D-NY)
 - [Current list of cosponsors here](#)
 - [Previous cosponsors](#)
- Introduced in the House by Reps. Sewell (D-AL), Katko (R-NY), Suozzi (D-NY), and Davis (R-IL)
 - [Current list of cosponsors here](#)
 - [Previous cosponsors](#)
- Increases the number of Medicare supported direct graduate medical education (DGME) and indirect medical education (IME) slots by 14,000 from 2023-2029
- Requires the Comptroller General to conduct a study on strategies for increasing health professional workforce diversity

Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act (S. 1810/H.R. 3541)

- Introduced in the Senate by Sens. Klobuchar (D-MN), Collins (R-ME), Rosen (D-NV), and Ernst (R-IA)
 - [Current list of cosponsors here](#)
 - [Previous cosponsors](#)
- Introduced in the House by Rep. Schneider (D-IL)
 - [Current list of cosponsors here](#)
 - [Previous cosponsors](#)
- Reauthorizes waiver program for 3 years
- Provides 5 additional waivers per state if 90% of the waivers available were used in the previous fiscal year (excluding states who do not use the program)
- Creates 3 new waivers per state to be used by academic medical centers, that doesn't have to be in a health professional shortage area if the "physician's work is in the public interest"
- Allows dual intent for J-1 visa physicians seeking graduate medical education, meaning they can pursue a green card
- Requires additional transparency in employment contract terms
- Permits greater immigration flexibilities for spouses and children of participating physicians
- Requires an annual report on the annual utilization of the waivers in hopes of better informing rural states about how to make full use of the program

Share Your Neurology Workforce Story

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you and your colleagues as health care providers?

What patient care challenges have you experienced due to a shortage of neurology providers?

Do you have a personal perspective to share related to GME funding or the Conrad 30 program?

Expand Telehealth Access Permanently

Ask: Cosponsor/thank you for cosponsoring the Telehealth Modernization Act (S. 368/H.R. 1332) or the CONNECT for Health Act (S. 1512/H.R. 2903) to maintain access to telehealth for neurologic patients following the public health emergency.

Telehealth Modernization Act (S. 368/H.R. 1332)

- Introduced in the Senate by Sens. Scott (R-SC), Schatz (D-HI), and Shaheen (D-NH)
 - [Current list of cosponsors here](#)
- Introduced in the House by Reps. Carter (R-GA) and Blunt Rochester (D-DE)
 - [Current list of cosponsors here](#)
- Permanently removes Medicare's geographic and originating site restrictions to allow patients to receive care at home
- Gives authority to expand the types of telehealth services covered by Medicare

CONNECT for Health Act (S. 1512/ H.R. 2903)

- Introduced in the Senate by Sens. Schatz (D-HI), Wicker (R-MS), Cardin (D-MD), Thune (R-SD), Warner (D-VA), and Hyde-Smith (R-MS) among a bipartisan group of 50 senators
 - [Current list of cosponsors here](#)
- Introduced in the House by Reps. Thompson (D-CA), Welch (D-VT), Johnson (R-OH), Schweikert (R-AZ), and Matsui (D-CA)
 - [Current list of cosponsors here](#)
- Expands access to telehealth services on a permanent basis
- Supports health care providers and beneficiaries in utilizing telehealth
- Enhances telehealth oversight
- Requires a study on telehealth utilization during the COVID-19 pandemic

Share Your Telehealth Story

How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the use of telehealth within your medical practice?

What have been the challenges of moving patient visits to video or audio telehealth visits?

Do you feel that your patients have benefited from the expansion of telehealth in routine neurologic care?

What are your concerns with the future of increased telehealth use in neurology?

Protect Medicare Patient Access to Care

Ask: Congress must act as soon as possible, but no later than December 31, 2021, to avert the upcoming Medicare Cliff to avoid a substantial negative impact on patient access to care.

House Only: Sign the Bera/Bucshon Dear Colleague letter by October 7.

- The three Medicare policies scheduled to go into effect in 2022 are Medicare Sequestration (2%), PAYGO (4%), and expiring Medicare Fee Schedule Relief (3.75%).
- Congressional action is needed to fully address this nearly 10% Medicare Cliff no later than December 31, 2021.

Share Your Medicare Patient Stories

How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the financial viability of your practice or your institution?

Describe what type of Medicare patients you treat. How would they be impacted with less access to neurologic care?