



New Mexico State Legislature

STATE CAPITOL
Santa Fe

October 30, 2023

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Dear Ms. Becker, Dr. Fair, Dr. Finn and Dr. Ziedonis:

The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee is writing to express our support for fair compensation and treatment of physician residents working in University of New Mexico residency programs.

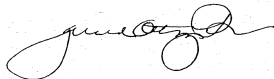
Addressing the shortage of health care professionals in New Mexico is one of our highest priorities, and we believe it is crucially important to retain the health care professionals who are already working here. We are concerned that if physician residents are not compensated fairly and treated with respect, they will leave this state. Currently, only 40% of New Mexico residency graduates choose to stay in New Mexico. Of course there are many factors that contribute to this, but we believe that more physician residents would choose to stay in New Mexico if they felt highly valued during their residency.

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We cannot afford to lose these resident physicians to surrounding states. The average age of a physician in New Mexico is 53, which means that New Mexico will soon lose a large portion of the state's already limited number of physicians to retirement. We have to train and retain as many resident physicians as possible to avoid an even greater shortage of physicians than we are already facing. If the physician workforce is not replenished, it will be nearly impossible for New Mexico residents to access the care that they need.

Therefore, the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee encourages you to make every reasonable effort to support your physician residents so that they leave their residency with a positive outlook on practicing in New Mexico.

Sincerely,



GERALD ORTIZ Y PINO
State Senator, District 12
Chair, Legislative Health and Human
Services Committee



ELIZABETH "LIZ" THOMSON
State Representative, District 24
Vice Chair, Legislative Health and Human
Services Committee

GOYP/ET:sv