



APPLIED POLICY®

November 13, 2017

To whom it may concern:

In 2017, Doctors Hospital at Renaissance commissioned Applied Policy to conduct research into how the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) could use its Graduate Medical Education (GME) to help better address geographic deficiencies of physicians.

Based on our extensive research on this issue, Applied Policy supports the concept of GME Cap-Flexibility. CMS has both the opportunity and the obligation to use its existing authority to establish caps in a way that supplements the current broad-based policy with a strategic approach to encourage development of GME programs in areas of need across the country.

Targeting support for GME programs by extending the cap-building window for new teaching hospitals in rural, underserved, under-resourced communities will:

- help teaching hospitals scale-up training capabilities;
- increase the likelihood that physicians will practice in the underserved area; and
- help address the maldistribution of GME programs across the nation.

Establishing a GME residency program requires an immense investment of human capital, infrastructure and institutional capacity, as well as community and financial support. A dynamic and flexible system that can train a sufficient number of physicians today will help meet the healthcare needs of the U.S. tomorrow.

We believe Cap Flexibility is an innovative and dynamic policy tool available to CMS and we encourage CMS to use all available resources at its disposal to address national physician workforce issues.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact me at (202) 558-5272 or by email at jscott@appliedpolicy.com.

Sincerely,

James G. Scott
President & CEO

Applied Policy, LLC is a healthcare consultancy in the Washington, DC area helping companies manage the complexities of federal health policy so individuals can have access to the healthcare products and services they need.

*improving
lives*