

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009

SR 27

4  
5 By: Senator J. Key

6  
7  
8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 URGING THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO  
10 INITIATE AND SUPPORT APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE  
11 ACTION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEDICAL  
12 RESIDENCY POSITIONS AND THE NECESSARY ADDITIONAL  
13 FUNDING FOR THIS PURPOSE.

14  
15 **Subtitle**

16 URGING THE ARKANSAS CONGRESSIONAL  
17 DELEGATION TO INITIATE AND SUPPORT  
18 APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO  
19 INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEDICAL RESIDENCY  
20 POSITIONS AND THE NECESSARY ADDITIONAL  
21 FUNDING FOR THIS PURPOSE.

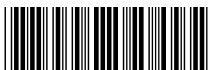
22  
23  
24 WHEREAS, the United States faces a shortage of physicians; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, Arkansas ranks 48<sup>th</sup> out of fifty (50) states in physicians per  
27 capita so that the shortage of physicians in Arkansas is and will be greater  
28 than that of the rest of the United States; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, medical schools in the United States are increasing their  
31 student enrollments to increase the number of graduates; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, the Association of American Medical Colleges has recommended  
34 an increase of thirty percent (30%) in the number of medical students by  
35 2015; and

36



1           WHEREAS, graduates of medical schools must complete at least a  
2 residency program in order to obtain a license; and

3  
4           WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is in the  
5 process of increasing the enrollment in each medical school class from 150 to  
6 200, requiring more residency positions in Arkansas; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, graduates of medical schools must complete several years of  
9 residency training to become board certified in their specialty areas,  
10 including family medicine; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, the Accreditation Council on Medical Education reports that  
13 the number of residency positions in the United States has only increased  
14 approximately eight percent (8%) in the last ten (10) years; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, allowing the graduation of more medical students who must  
17 compete with international medical graduates, graduates of schools of  
18 osteopathy, and other smaller groups seeking residency training will not be  
19 effective in alleviating the shortage of physicians in the United States  
20 unless additional residency positions are created and funding is increased to  
21 cover their costs; and

22  
23           WHEREAS, unless the number of residency positions in the Medicare  
24 residency "Cap" system is raised or United States students have preferential  
25 treatment in the match process, the increased number of medical school  
26 graduates will be inadequate to resolve the shortage of physicians,

27  
28 NOW THEREFORE,

29 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
30 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

31  
32           That the Senate recognizes it is essential to provide enough residency  
33 positions for the number of medical school graduates in order to help relieve  
34 the shortage of physicians practicing in the United States and urges the  
35 Arkansas Congressional Delegation to aggressively initiate federal  
36 legislative action that would increase the number of residency positions

1 available to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and other  
2 teaching medical schools and the funds to support that increase.

3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate  
5 copy shall be provided to the Arkansas Congressional Delegation by the  
6 Secretary of the Senate.

7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36