

**Missouri State Medical Association
House of Delegates**

Resolution # 7
(A-24)

Introduced by: St. Louis Metropolitan Medical Society

Subject: Unmatched Graduating Physicians

Referred to:

1 **WHEREAS**, the US is expected to have an alarming shortage of physicians in primary and specialties' care; and,
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4 **WHEREAS**, the number of practicing physicians is decreasing due to burnout, retirement, and other causes; and,
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7 **WHEREAS**, the current number of medical students, residents, and fellows will not prevent such a shortage; and,
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10 **WHEREAS**, Congress has repeatedly failed to provide funding to educate the necessary number of physicians to provide needed care of our aging and expanding population; and,
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13 **WHEREAS**, Physician Assistants (PAs), and Nurse Practitioners (NPs), have increasingly replaced licensed physicians in providing primary and some specialty care due to geographic, and economic shortage of physicians; and,
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17 **WHEREAS**, many States have allowed non-physicians' extenders to practice medicine independently rather than under the control and in collaboration with licensed physicians; and,
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20 **WHEREAS**, a large number of physicians graduate from medical schools, take and pass USMLE part one and two, then apply for residency, but fail to get one of the limited number of post graduate training spots in the US; and,
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24 **WHEREAS**, these graduating physicians spend six to eight years in undergraduate and graduate studies before graduating, and some of them serve a year of internship required to graduate. They spend huge sums of money to complete their studies, sit for and pass the rigorous USMLE tests, spend thousands of dollars on their applications for the matching programs and interviews; and,
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29 **WHEREAS**, these unfortunate physicians face the very hard reality of a sudden irreversible interruption of their careers, outstanding debts they cannot repay, and the grim fact that others who are less qualified, less educated, and less financially burdened individuals such as PAs and NPs can practice medicine with or without collaborating with a licensed physician; and,
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34 **WHEREAS**, Missouri passed a law several years ago allowing these unfortunate graduating physicians to obtain a license called Assistant Physician (AP) which allow these physicians without residency to work in underserved areas in primary care in collaboration with a licensed Missouri physician; and,
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38 **WHEREAS**, multiple other states have passed similar laws, under different titles and processes such as
39 Graduate Physician, Associate Physician..., some of them allowing this group to gradually practice
40 independently without a residency; and,
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42 **WHEREAS**, these graduating physicians working in collaboration with licensed physicians face in their
43 daily collaborative practices the denial of reimbursement by Medicare while Medicaid and private
44 insurers recognize their billings; and,
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47 **WHEREAS**, the AMA House of delegate opposed, several years ago, the creation of this class of
48 licensees mainly because its creation may weaken our case in Congress for increased funding for GME;
49 and,
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51 **WHEREAS**, the number of these unfortunate graduating physicians has grown by the thousands each
52 year, yet Congress did not provide the needed fund to create enough residency slots to train these
53 physicians, while more non physicians providing medical care increased dramatically and many of them
54 are now are allowed to practice independently; and,
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56 **WHEREAS**, many of these graduating physicians, after practicing in collaboration with licensed
57 physicians, acquiring additional skills and experience, were able to match into a residency program;
58 therefore, be It,
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60 **RESOLVED**, that our AMA work with State societies to support these unmatched graduate physicians
61 through their legislators and regulators to allow these physicians to work in underserved areas, in
62 primary care, only in collaboration with a licensed physicians; and further be it,
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64 **RESOLVED**, that our AMA work with appropriate parties and CMS to reimburse for services rendered by
65 these graduating physicians working in their collaborative practices as does private insurers and States'
66 Medicaid programs; and further be it,
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68 **RESOLVED**, that the AMA allows these graduating physicians, working in collaboration with a licensed
69 physician, to become members of an AMA subgroup.

Fiscal Note: None

Current Policy: