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Secretary Dudek Highlights Impact of Florida's New Statewide Residency Program
-Program provides more than \$80M for graduate medical education statewide-

Tallahassee, Fla. –Today, Agency for Health Care Administration Secretary Liz Dudek was joined by Mark O'Bryant, President & CEO of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare; John P. Fogarty, M.D., Dean, Florida State University College of Medicine; Senator Bill Montford and Representative Alan Williams, as well as business and health care stakeholders, to highlight the local impact of the new Statewide Residency Program. For the first time, hospitals are receiving a supplemental payment specifically for graduate medical education, which was made possible by the \$80 million appropriation recommended by Governor Scott in the Florida Families First Budget.

“This funding specifically for graduate medical education is another way Governor Scott has demonstrated his commitment to education, health care and jobs,” said Secretary Liz Dudek. “It will improve access to and quality of care for all Floridians, expand graduate medical education on an equitable basis, and increase the supply of highly trained physicians statewide.”

“At the Florida State University College of Medicine our focus is on creating more of the physicians Florida needs most,” said John P. Fogarty, M.D., Dean, Florida State University College of Medicine. “To do that, we need to be able to keep more of our graduates in Florida for residency training, which greatly increases the likelihood they will end up practicing here. Though we are the fourth-most populous state in the country, we are near the bottom when it comes to the number of available residency positions. As a result the majority of Florida medical school graduates end up matching with residency programs elsewhere.”

Representative Marti Coley, Speaker Pro Tempore of the Florida House of Representatives, said, “Providing the best health care available for all Floridians is critical to the quality of life for our citizens as well as our ability to attract new businesses to Florida. This funding will enable Florida medical students to receive their training in the state and then hopefully establish their career in Florida after completion of their education.”

“I'm proud of the bi-partisan support of the legislature for the Statewide Residency Program and the funding of additional residency slots,” said Representative Alan Williams. Residents tend to stay and practice in the community where they conduct their residency, and it is critical that Tallahassee continue to have access to quality health care.”



“I was proud to support funding for the Statewide Residency Program in our budget deliberations during this year’s legislative session. It is a wise investment that makes commonsense on so many levels,” said Representative Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda.

“Creating a new statewide medical residency program and expanding the number of graduate medical education professionals will help ensure Florida has a pipeline of physicians to serve Florida’s future population,” said David Christian, Vice President of Government Relations for the Florida Chamber of Commerce. “The Florida Chamber applauds lawmakers and Governor Scott for helping to secure Florida’s future in healthcare.”

Dominic M. Calabro, President and CEO of Florida TaxWatch, said, “Investment in Graduate Medical Education through the Statewide Residency Program ensures Florida retains quality physicians, resulting in improved access to health care for all Floridians. By using a specific line-item to fund Graduate Medical Education, Governor Scott and the Legislature increased transparency and program accountability for the taxpayers of Florida.”

Tom Feeny, President/CEO, Associated Industries of Florida said, “AIF applauds the leadership of Governor Scott in ushering through the new Statewide Residency Program. This new program will allow more medical students to stay in Florida for their residencies, and in turn, plant their roots here for developing their medical practices in the Sunshine State. This program means future job creation, is good for Florida and is great for business.”

The funding affiliated with the new Statewide Residency Program will ensure Florida medical students can continue their training in the state, increasing the likelihood they will practice medicine in Florida after completion of their education.

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida’s Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 37 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).

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