



House Bill 295 PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE AMENDMENTS

House Bill 295 establishes a state grant program and commensurate funding to establish new medical residency programs or to expand existing residency programs. The bill also creates a grant program and funding for a new forensic psychiatry fellowship program.

RATIONALE

Utah consistently ranks among the most underserved states in critical areas of healthcare delivery, both in urban and rural settings. This is due in large part to physician shortages across the state. Utah's healthcare industry provides exceptional quality; however, given the state's historic growth, access to care, particularly in primary care and psychiatry/mental health, is facing challenges and if not addressed, has the potential to impact economic progress.

Furthermore, the demand for mental health care in Utah is increasing while the state also is significantly underserved in behavioral and mental health, both in urban and rural areas. This also is due to an overall shortage of psychiatrists.

Utah also remains a significant "net exporter" of qualified college and university graduates seeking to train as physicians either as medical students, residents, or fellows. National statistics show that increasing graduate medical education (GME) or residency and fellowship programs will have a positive impact not only on physician shortages but also in retaining medical students, residents, and fellows who will establish their medical practices in the state.

SUPPORT

The following organizations fully support H.B. 295:

University of Utah School of Medicine
Noorda College of Osteopathic Medicine
Rocky Vista University
Intermountain Healthcare
Steward Health Care
MountainStar Healthcare

Utah Medical Association
Utah Hospital Association
Utah Academy of Family Physicians
Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce
Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce
Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce

UTAH STATISTICS

*Rankings compared to
other U.S. States*

42nd
overall physicians

50th
primary care & female
physicians

48th
general surgeons

1000+ more
primary care
physicians needed by
2030

46th
overall mental health

50th
overall adult mental
health

41 Mental Health
Professional Shortage
Areas

Less than **1/2**
psychiatric care need
being met

86% Utah
medical students leave
for residency

Nearly **90%** more
likely to practice in
Utah if they complete
medical education and
residency in state.

*See reverse for
references cited.*