



UTAH STATE  
LEGISLATURE

## 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*

**42<sup>nd</sup>**  
overall physicians

**50<sup>th</sup>**  
primary care & female  
physicians

**48<sup>th</sup>**  
general surgeons

**1000+** more  
primary care  
physicians needed by  
2030

**46<sup>th</sup>**  
overall mental health

**50<sup>th</sup>**  
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.*

## REFERENCES

- *2021 State Physician Workforce Data Report*, Association of American Medical Colleges
- *Report on the Economic and Social Impact of Expanding Graduate Medical Education in Utah*, Tripp Umbach, 2021
- *State of Mental Health in America*, Mental Health America, 2020
- *Utah's Mental Health*, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, University of Utah, 2019
- *Mental Health Care Professional Shortage Areas*, Kaiser Family Foundation, 2019
- *Report on U.S. Medical School Applications and Matriculants*, Association of American Medical Colleges, 2021
- *Applicant and Matriculant Profile Summary Report*, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, 2021