



FEDERATION OF TEXAS PSYCHIATRY  
*A United Voice for Texas Psychiatry*

Graduate Medical Education  
& Other Physician Workforce Pipeline Programs

Facts

- Texas is #1 in the nation for population growth. This growth presents a significant challenge to meeting health care needs.
  - The support of Graduate Medical Education (GME) has led to the physician workforce growing faster than the Texas population for the last decade.
  - However, Texas still ranks 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation for the ratio of physicians per capita. The Legislature's efforts have achieved Texas' target ratio of 1.1 to 1 for entry level GME positions per Texas medical school graduate.
  - The work is not over as Texas has three more medical schools under development.
- The State Physician Education Loan Repayment Program has been greatly successful in improving access to care by encouraging physicians to pay off their medical loans by working in our most underserved areas in the state.

State Medical Student Formula Funding

- Both the House and Senate recommend no change in the base medical student funding rate, at \$45,000 per student per year.
- TMA believes the State of Texas should continue supporting medical education and funding existing medical schools. TMA's policy supports medical school expansion through the creation of new ones and the expansion of existing ones.

2020-2021 Budget Proposal

- Both S.B. 1 and H.B. 1 provided for the additional \$60.15 million requested by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, a total of \$157.2 million for FY20-21.
- Both budget bills include \$22 million from the State's permanent GME fund as one of the sources for the GME Expansion Program.

Other Physician Workforce Pipeline Programs

- Physician Education Loan Repayment: \$33.8 million (S.B.1 and H.B. 1 fund the program at \$25.35m for FY20-21)
  - **NOTE:** Looking for restoration of \$8.45 million for the biennium that was cut from this program in the 2018-19 budget, to bring total funding back to \$33.8 million. This program is one of the most effective for increasing physician supply in rural, underserved areas of Texas.
- Primary Care Preceptorship: \$3 million
- Family Medicine Residency Program: \$16.78 million, which includes restoration of the cut in the 2018-19 budget when funding was reduced by \$6.78 million.
- Mental Health Loan Repayment Program: Both S.B. 1 and H.B. 1 funds the program at the same level at \$2.125m for FY20-21 (same level as the previous biennium).
  - H.B. 955, Rep. Senfronia Thomson - relating to eligibility requirements for student loan repayment assistance for certain mental health professionals.
  - The bill creates a separate funding category for child and adolescent psychiatrists.