

Education and Local Government Interim Committee

GME Summary

1.14.16

1. Graduate Medical Education or **GME** is the education of physicians that occurs *after medical school*. It is called **residency**.
2. **Residency** is the training that prepares physicians for a specific **specialty** such as Family Medicine or Internal Medicine.
3. Physicians are considerably more likely to **practice in the vicinity of their residency** vs their medical school.
 - Approximately 70% of the MT Family Medicine Residency graduates *remain in MT*.
4. The **creation of residency slots** is a major tool to increase the number of **primary care physicians** practicing in MT.
 - Requires a *major initial investment* and access to *limited clinical teaching resources* (program directors, faculty, and practicing physicians)
 - Montana's *residency slots have increased* from 8 per year to 24 per year since 2012
 - We now have 2 Family Medicine residencies and 1 Internal Medicine residency.
5. Residents are more likely to practice in **rural and underserved communities** if they **train in those places** during residency.
6. Residency program **funding**
 - Primarily through *CMS* (Medicare/Medicaid)
 - *MT funding is matched 3:1* through Medicaid
 - *Sponsoring hospitals* make *significant annual contributions* to cover residency program deficits
 - Current funding mechanisms hamper the ability of residency programs to train residents in rural communities.
 - *Additional state funding would increase the ability of Montana residencies to educate residents in rural and underserved area, increasing the likelihood that graduates will practice in those places.*