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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 625 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY SCHEMEL, DECEMBER 2, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, DECEMBER 2, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a  
2 study on medical student choice in primary care and issue a  
3 report.

4 WHEREAS, A report on physician shortage in this Commonwealth  
5 was generated in response to House Resolution No.735 (2014); and

6 WHEREAS, The 2015 report on physician shortage recommended  
7 improving physician work force data collection and analysis; and

8 WHEREAS, The 2015 report on physician shortage recommended  
9 encouraging medical schools to implement programs aimed at  
10 increasing this Commonwealth's physician supply; and

11 WHEREAS, The 2015 report on physician shortage recommended  
12 establishing a State pipeline program to prepare students for  
13 medical careers; and

14 WHEREAS, The 2015 report suggested that pipeline programs can  
15 address health care disparities with students from rural areas  
16 more likely to practice in rural areas and minority students  
17 more likely to practice in underserved areas; and

18 WHEREAS, The 2015 report on physician shortage recommended  
19 increasing the number of residency positions in order to train

1 more physicians in this Commonwealth; and

2 WHEREAS, Data suggests that by 2030, this Commonwealth will  
3 require an additional 1,039 primary care physicians, which  
4 represents an increase of 11% more than the current workforce,  
5 to maintain the status quo; and

6 WHEREAS, There are currently seven allopathic and two  
7 osteopathic medical schools in this Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, Uncertainty surrounds medical schools' reports of  
9 the percentage of their students entering primary care as nearly  
10 100% of family medicine residents remain in primary care, only  
11 approximately 25% of internal medicine residents and 50% of  
12 pediatrics residents remain in primary care; and

13 WHEREAS, Thirty-two percent of physicians in this  
14 Commonwealth completed their undergraduate medical education  
15 (UME) in this Commonwealth and 57% of physicians completed their  
16 UME and graduate medical education (GME) in this Commonwealth;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Only 12.6% of United States allopathic and  
19 osteopathic seniors enter Accreditation Commission for Graduate  
20 Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited family medicine programs  
21 and 11.4% of Pennsylvania allopathic and osteopathic seniors  
22 enter ACGME-accredited family medicine programs; and

23 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians is  
24 committed to increasing the percentage of allopathic and  
25 osteopathic medical school graduates choosing family medicine to  
26 25% by 2030; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
28 State Government Commission to conduct a study on efforts within  
29 medical schools to promote student choice in primary care, to  
30 include primary care experience in the curriculum and

1 accurately monitor and report graduate retention in primary care  
2 and issue a report to the General Assembly; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission seek  
4 input and information as appropriate from the following:

5           (1)    The Department of State.

6           (2)    The Department of Health.

7           (3)    Pennsylvania medical school deans or a designated  
8 representative.

9           (4)    The Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians.

10          (5)    The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of  
11 Pediatrics.

12          (6)    The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of  
13 Physicians.

14          (7)    The Pennsylvania Association of Community Health  
15 Centers.

16          (8)    Other persons that are knowledgeable of the issues  
17 surrounding medical student choice in primary care;

18 and be it further

19       RESOLVED, That the report of the Joint State Government  
20 Commission contain findings and recommendations and include any  
21 proposed legislation or funding regarding the following:

22           (1)    Percentage of students entering and remaining in  
23 primary care specialties by institution.

24           (2)    Demographics of students entering and remaining in  
25 primary care specialties by institution such as birth county,  
26 race, ethnicity, gender and age.

27           (3)    Percentage of students entering primary care who  
28 remain in State for GME and for practice.

29           (4)    Institutional mechanisms to track percentage of  
30 students remaining in primary care.

1           (5)    Efforts to promote primary care within each  
2   institution.

3           (6)    Special programming or educational tracks to  
4   promote primary care by institution.

5           (7)    Special programming or opportunities for students  
6   underrepresented in medicine.

7           (8)    Percentage of students participating in National  
8   Health Service Corps.

9           (9)    Average medical school debt of students entering  
10   into primary care specialties;

11   and be it further

12        RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a  
13   report of its findings and recommendations to the General  
14   Assembly within one year of the adoption of this resolution.