



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*®

March 28, 2012

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians, an organization representing 132,000 internal medicine physicians and medical students, who specialize in the primary and comprehensive care of adolescents and adults, I am writing to applaud your efforts to expand access to care provided by primary care physicians. We are pleased to support H.R. 3667, the Primary Care Workforce Access and Improvement Act of 2011.

Internal Medicine specialists are at the forefront of managing chronic diseases and providing comprehensive and coordinated health care. The skills of internists will be increasingly necessary in taking care of an aging population with a growing prevalence of chronic diseases. The availability of physicians providing primary care in a community is consistently associated with better outcomes at lower costs. Yet the nation is facing a severe shortage of primary care physicians for adults, an estimated 44,000-46,000 by 2025.

H.R. 3667 would authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct a five year Medicare pilot project that would direct a share of Graduate Medical Education funding to medical education entities to test different models of primary care training. This legislation would give the Secretary of HHS the authority to test new models of care that demonstrate the capability of improving the quality, quantity, and distribution of primary care physicians. Improved models of ambulatory training and exposure to team-based approaches to patient care, such as the patient centered medical home, are essential to making careers in general internal medicine and other primary care specialties more attractive and relevant.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and your sustained commitment to improving access to primary care. We look forward to working with you to help enact this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Virginia Hood".

Virginia Hood, MBBS, MPH, FACP
President