

Leadership Day Asks

The American College of Physicians is the largest medical specialty organization and the second largest physician membership society in the United States. ACP members include 160,000 internal medicine physicians, related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge, clinical expertise, and compassion to the preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness.

Internal medicine physicians are the foundation of clinical care, serving and leading in every practice setting and community, caring for patients throughout their health care journey. To help improve patient access to care and strengthen the primary care workforce, we are asking Members of Congress to:

1. **Co-sponsor and pass H.R.2630/S. 652, the *Safe Step Act of 2023***, a bipartisan bill that would require group health plans to provide an exception process for any medication step therapy protocol to help ensure that patients can safely and efficiently access treatment.
2. **Co-sponsor and pass H.R. 1202/S. 704, the *Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act***, which would allow borrowers to qualify for interest-free deferment on their student loans while in a medical or dental internship or residency program.
3. **Co-sponsor and pass H.R. 2389/S. 1302, the *Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2023***, which would gradually raise the number of Medicare-supported GME positions by 2,000 per year for seven years.
4. **Cosponsor and pass H.R. 2474, the *Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act***, which preserves access to care for Medicare beneficiaries by providing an annual inflation update equal to the Medicare Economic Index (MEI) for Medicare physician payment.
5. **Cosponsor and pass H.R. 952, the *Kids' Access to Primary Care Act***, which aligns Medicaid reimbursement rates with Medicare payments for primary care services.