



To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: Rachelle Colombo, Executive Director

Date: March 23, 2023

Subject: HB 2260; medical student loan agreements

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments on HB 2260, which would allow students in the medical student loan program to switch between approved postgraduate residency training programs.

Both the Kansas Medical Student Loan Program (KMSL) and Kansas Medical Residency Bridging Program (KMRB) were originally enacted to encourage primary care physicians to practice in underserved counties in Kansas. Through these programs, physicians agree to practice primary care in an underserved county in exchange for loan support. The concept behind these programs is that physicians are most likely to practice where they complete their residency. By engaging students in residencies in rural areas, they are more likely to live and practice in that community long term.

The KMSL and KMRB were both amended in 2017 to allow students pursuing psychiatric practice to participate in both programs – expanding the program beyond primary care to also include Psychiatry. However, the funds allocated for psychiatry residents are not co-mingled with those for primary care, ensuring that the programs success in attracting primary care resident is not diluted.

The programs have been extremely successful in achieving the goal of attracting primary care and psychiatric physicians to underserved areas. Approximated two thirds of all participants in the program fulfill their service obligation and go on to practice in Kansas.

KMS urges the state’s continued partnering with local communities and residency programs to adequately meet primary care needs across the state. The Kansas Medical Society supports efforts to ensure maintenance of effort to these programs.

HB 2260 simply allows for students engaged in the MSLP and MRBP to switch between the approved programs without risk their loan agreement.

We would encourage the committee to protect and maintain the current MSLP and MRBP and to support language allowing for switching between approved residency programs. We appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments. Thank you.