



To: Senate Education Committee

From: Rachelle Colombo
Executive Director

Date: February 20, 2020

Subject: SB 381, establishing OBGYN medical loan repayment fund

The Kansas Medical Society appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments on SB 381, which expands the medical student loan program to include the practice of obstetrics and gynecology.

Both the Kansas Medical Student Loan Program (MSLP) and Kansas Medical Residency Bridging Program (MSLB) were originally enacted to encourage primary care physicians to practice in underserved counties in Kansas.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 during their medical school and residency (specialty) training.

The programs have been extremely successful in achieving the goal of attracting primary care physicians to underserved areas, and we want to ensure that the state continues to partner 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.

SB 381 expands these programs to the specialty of obstetrics and gynecology for the same purpose of attracting necessary providers, in this case specialists, to underserved areas. While we believe it is imperative to protect the resources and structure of the current program to ensure that it remains successful in attracting and retaining primary care providers to underserved areas, SB 381 expands the program without utilizing resources devoted to primary care by establishing a specific fund in the state treasury for obstetrics and gynecology.

We would encourage the committee to protect and maintain the current MSLP and MRBP and to support language that allows for the addition of obstetrics and gynecology with additional resources and program slots. We appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments. Thank you.