

Memorandum

To: Legislative Committee
Copy: Board of Managers
From: Jonny F. Hipp, Administrator *Jonny F. Hipp*
Date: July 18, 2024
Re: 89th Texas Legislative Session

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to outline a 89th Texas Legislative Session agenda focused on improving Graduate Medical Education (GME) policies and funding in order to address critical needs in the healthcare workforce in Nueces County.

Background

Graduate Medical Education plays a crucial role in preparing physicians to meet the healthcare needs of our population. However, current challenges such as funding disparities, workforce shortages, and evolving healthcare demands necessitate strategic legislative interventions.

Legislative Priorities

1. Increase GME Funding: Advocate for increased federal and state funding to support GME programs across diverse healthcare settings, including rural and underserved areas. This funding should prioritize residency slots in specialties facing shortages, such as primary care and mental health.
2. Expansion of Residency Positions: Encourage federal and state policies that expand the number of residency positions to meet the growing demand for healthcare services. This includes supporting incentives for hospitals and healthcare systems to create new residency programs.
3. Allocate GME Funding to Hospital Districts: Encourage state policies to allocate state GME funds to Hospital Districts.
4. Reallocate Unused GME Funding to Hospital Districts: Encourage state policies to allocate unused state GME funds to Hospital Districts.