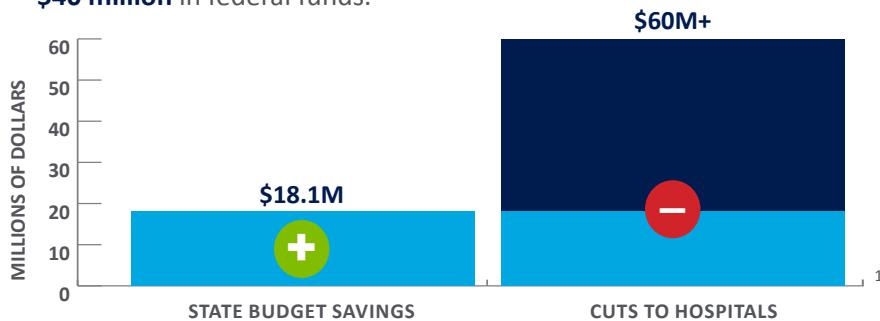


Cuts to Medical Education Hurt Patients and Hospitals

In the most recent budget update, Gov. Polis recommended cutting Indirect Medical Education (IME) to help the state cover its projected budget shortfall.

Why this matters:

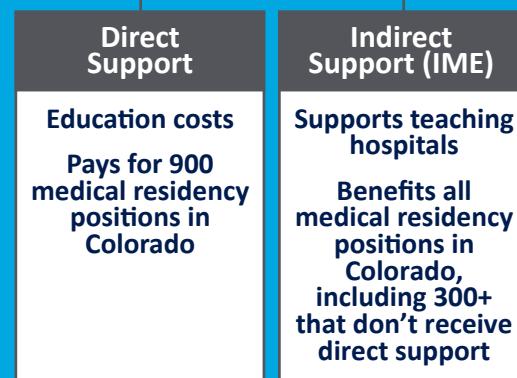
- **2 to 1** match of IME dollars from the federal government
 - Cutting \$18.1 million as Gov. Polis recommended would cost the state **\$40 million** in federal funds.



- **1,800** residents trained in Colorado in fiscal year 2025, and their programs are supported by IME funding.²
- Hospitals support **319** residency positions in Colorado that do not receive direct medical education support.⁴
- Nationally, nearly **56%** of residents from 2015 through 2024 are practicing in the state where they did their residency training.³
- **42.3%** of physicians who trained in Colorado still practice here.⁴
- Colorado will need **1,770 more primary care physicians by 2030.**⁵



Medical Education Funding



Why is IME needed?

IME recognizes that **teaching hospitals cost more to operate clinically**. Those higher costs show up in:

- Infrastructure and resources for residents
- Training for the future of Colorado's health care workforce
- More complex patients with longer lengths of stay who need more resources



Cuts to IME are cuts to health care!

Cutting IME now means fewer doctors, longer wait times, and decreased access to care. Protect this vital funding for Colorado's physician pipeline.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Tyler Chafee, CHA senior vice president, government relations, at Tyler.Chafee@cha.com.

¹ SOURCE: Appendix I of HCPF's budget supplemental

² ACGME Data Resource Book 2024-25

³ AAMC Report on Residents

⁴ AAMC GME Fact Sheet, Colorado

⁵ Colorado: Projecting Primary Care Physician Workforce

Cuts to Medical Education Funding Impact Colorado's Providers



Dr. Megan Fessenden
Family Medicine Resident,
CommonSpirit – St. Anthony
North Hospital



“

The funding that the IME gives to residency programs around Colorado and the country is incredibly important to give us the experiences and skills to be able to serve the communities in which we practice in the future.

”



Dr. Daniel Lee
Program Director, Internal
Medicine Residency, UCHealth
Parkview Medical Center



“

I decided to stay in Colorado because [Pueblo] is my hometown, and I feel truly a calling to help and serve the community members of this particular area. In Pueblo, it's been difficult to recruit, but through the residency program we've been able to train and retain a number of different physicians. Just in my facility alone, there have been more than 30 people who have stayed on as internal medicine physicians, as well as subspecialists that go on to complete fellowships. It is incredibly important to our community, and without these resources we would definitely deteriorate in the care that we are able to provide for the city. It is essential. And without residencies, I believe that this health care system would cease to exist.

”



Dr. Stephanie Sandhu
Doctor at Intermountain Health
Saint Joseph Hospital, former
Colorado medical resident

“

As a former Saint Joseph resident who committed my career to community health in Colorado, I know that we don't just hire a workforce – we grow it. Cutting [IME] funding dismantles the very pipeline that ensures Colorado-trained physicians remain in our local communities to practice. With Colorado facing a critical physician shortage, reducing support for the only proven solution – workforce development – is a risk we cannot afford.

”



Dr. Dikchhya Karki
Family Medicine Resident,
CommonSpirit – St. Anthony
North Hospital



“

I've had some great experience with our program here and I feel very well equipped to go out and practice on my own. That's why the funding is so important. If we make cuts or anything like that it would potentially decrease the chances of more doctors going into primary care.

”

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Tyler Chafee, CHA senior vice president, government relations, at Tyler.Chafee@cha.com.