October 4, 2012

The Honorable Aaron Schock  
United States House of Representatives  
328 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Allyson Schwartz  
United States House of Representatives  
1227 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schock and Schwartz:

On behalf of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), I am writing to express our support for **H.R. 6352: The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction and Graduate Medical Education Accountability and Transparency Act**.

Founded in 1912, the FSMB is the national non-profit organization representing the 70 state medical and osteopathic boards of the United States and its territories. With offices in Texas and Washington, DC, the FSMB serves as the collective voice for state boards and supports them in protecting the public health and safety.

The United States faces a physician shortage that is expected to grow significantly over the next decade. Unless proactive measures are taken, millions of patients across the nation will have limited availability to high-quality and affordable health care, especially in underserved and rural communities. In order to ensure the competency and accessibility of a robust physician workforce, we must demonstrate our commitment to increasing support and funding for expanded medical residency training programs.

Graduate medical education plays a vital role in ensuring that physicians have been well-educated and trained, and have developed the necessary skills to deliver quality care for their patients. Despite the growing needs of our nation’s aging population, the number of graduate medical education slots has remained stagnant for nearly fifteen years. **H.R. 6352** takes an important step towards addressing the nation’s anticipated physician shortage by creating 15,000 new residency slots over the next five years, and bringing greater equality and accountability to the U.S. graduate medical education system.

The FSMB is pleased to offer its strong support for **H.R. 6352**, which will improve both the quality and safety of the U.S. health care system. We commend you for your bipartisan leadership on this important issue, and welcome the opportunity to work with you and Congress in support of **The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction and Graduate Medical Education Accountability and Transparency Act**.

Sincerely,

Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, FACP  
FSMB President and CEO