

IAFP Position Statement on Idaho Medical Education

The Idaho Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) Board of Directors supports deliberate and collaborative efforts to increase the training pipeline of quality physicians for Idaho. We feel it is imperative to prioritize the growth of graduate medical education, particularly in primary care specialties like family medicine.

Currently, there are 42 Idaho residency positions per year in family medicine, internal medicine, and psychiatry and 50 state supported medical student positions per year for Idaho students through the University of Washington and University of Utah. Having an adequate medical teaching infrastructure creates an optimal learning environment for new learners and helps to retain physicians in Idaho.

We support the emerging effort to formulate a 10 year plan for residency expansion across Idaho which can be available to students who wish to complete their training in family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, general surgery and psychiatry. This plan should provide vital teaching opportunities in addition to the well established and successful programs currently training physicians. It is critical that students and residents have access to willing and engaged clinical educators, which are currently limited in our state and region. We feel that careful and thoughtful consideration needs to be given to avoid over-saturating the medical teaching infrastructure which could create a sub-optimal learning environment for all.

The IAFP Board of Directors will continue to support strong medicine for Idaho through the wise growth of graduate medical education and programs to increase medical student educational opportunities. We look forward to working with all stakeholders to transparently and collaboratively address barriers and concerns.