

# Assembly Bill 2216

## Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education

Assemblymember Rob Bonta, 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly District



### IN BRIEF

AB 2216 address California's primary care provider shortage by:

- Establishing the Teaching Health Center Primary Care Graduate Medical Education Fund ;
- Providing planning and development grants to teaching health centers (THC) for the purpose of establishing new accredited or expanded primary care residency programs;
- Making available sustaining grants to ensure the continued operation of an accredited teaching health center.

### THE PROBLEM

California is facing unprecedented primary care workforce shortage. Community health centers are a major access point for health care in our most vulnerable communities. According to a recent study by the California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF), safety-net clinics are providing care to 54 percent, or 1.3 million, of new Medi-Cal patients who are enrolled in managed care plans. Unfortunately, we don't have enough primary care physicians. It is a crisis that has loomed for years and has now become an emergency. It has hit California's community health centers particularly hard.

At the same time, our nation's specialty-to-primary-care residency ratio more closely reflects the economic incentives teaching hospitals and academic medical centers have to train highly specialized providers than the overall health workforce supply needs necessary to meet the nation's health goals. To remedy current primary care shortages and avoid future shortfalls, it is estimated that the country needs to add another 1,700 to 3,000 primary care residency slots.

Additionally, California ranks 32<sup>nd</sup> in physician access with California's ratio of primary care physicians participating in Medi-Cal dismally low at only half of the federal recommendation. Six out of nine regions in California have a primary care provider shortage. Primary care residency programs are key to addressing access in underserved communities.

With estimates that 8,243 additional primary care physicians will be needed in California by 2030, dwindling Federal support for current THC sites, and no Federal investments to develop new sites, California must prioritize and demonstrate its commitment to providing access to primary care through a greater investment in and expansion of the teaching health center model.

### THE SOLUTION

AB 2216 addresses California's primary care shortage by creating a new state fund to sustain California's current teaching health centers and expand that opportunity to establish new teaching health center sites.

### SPONSOR

CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates

### SUPPORT

Alameda Health Consortium  
AltaMed Health Services Corporation  
Ampla Health  
Association of California Healthcare Districts Community  
Clinic Association of Los Angeles County California  
School Employees Association  
Clinica Sierra Vista  
Community Clinic Consortium

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### SUPPORT (continued)

Community Health Center Network  
County Health Executives Association of California  
Family Health Centers of San Diego  
Health Alliance of Northern California  
Health and Life Organization, Inc.  
Kheir Center  
Marin Community Clinics  
Mountain Valleys Health Centers  
North Coast Clinics Network  
North County Health Services  
North East Medical Services  
Omni Family Health  
Open Door Community Health Centers

Ravenswood Family Health Center  
Redwood Community Health Coalition  
San Ysidro Health Center  
St. John's Well Child & Family Center  
Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, Inc.  
Valley Community Healthcare  
Western Sierra Medical Clinic  
White Memorial Community Health Center

### OPPOSITION

California Right to Life Committee, Inc.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### Talking Points

- AB 2216 addresses California's primary care provider shortage by establishing the Teaching Health Center Primary Care Graduate Medical Education Fund.
- Teaching health centers are accredited community-based primary care training programs committed to preparing health professionals to serve the health needs of the community. With forty percent of THC graduates entering into primary care practice in nonprofit, community health centers in underserved communities as opposed to just two percent of traditional medical residents, THC are a proven model for addressing the primary care provider shortage that six of nine California regions face.
- With estimates that 8,243 additional primary care physicians will be needed in California by 2030, dwindling Federal support for current THC sites, and no Federal investments to develop new sites, California must prioritize and demonstrate its commitment to providing access to primary care through a greater investment in, and expansion of, the teaching health center model.
- PROVIDE REAL LIFE EXAMPLE FROM YOUR HEALTH CENTER.