



American Academy
of Pediatrics

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AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION



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Media contacts: AAFP: Julie Hirschhorn (jhirschhorn@aafp.org)

AAP: Devin Mazziotti (dmazziotti@aap.org)

ACOG: Kate Connors (kconnors@acog.org)

ACP: Jacquelyn Blaser (jblaser@acponline.org)

AOA: Ernst Lamothe (elamothe@osteopathic.org)

APA: Erin Connors (econnors@psych.org)

Leading Physician Groups: Department of Education's PSLF Rule Will Hurt Patients and Physicians

The statement below is issued by the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, American Osteopathic Association and American Psychiatric Association, who represent over 600,000 physicians:

Our organizations are deeply concerned by the U.S. Department of Education's final rule undermining the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, a vital pathway that has enabled thousands of physicians to serve rural and underserved communities. Loan forgiveness is a powerful tool to attract and retain physicians in public service, rural health care settings and nonprofit roles, particularly in primary care and psychiatry, where workforce shortages are most severe.

By restricting PSLF program eligibility for physicians employed under contracts with hospitals and health systems, this rule jeopardizes both patients' access to care and physicians' financial stability and autonomy.

PSLF is not just a loan program; it is a lifeline that allows medical graduates to choose primary care or psychiatry careers in high-need areas without being weighed down by insurmountable debt. We strongly urge the Department of Education to preserve physicians' access to the PSLF program and recognize that a healthy America depends on a strong physician workforce.

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About the American Academy of Family Physicians

The AAFP is the largest national association of family physicians, representing 128,300 physicians and medical students. Family medicine's cornerstone is an ongoing, personal patient-

physician relationship focused on impactful care for people of all ages, races and genders across all medical conditions. The AAFP supports every stage of a family physician's career and provides evidence-based resources, advocacy and community to empower family medicine. To learn more, visit aafp.org. For information about health care, medical conditions and wellness, please visit the AAFP's patient education website, familydoctor.org.

About the American Academy of Pediatrics

The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. aap.org

About the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) is the nation's leading group of physicians providing evidence-based obstetric and gynecologic care. As a private, voluntary, nonprofit membership organization of more than 60,000 members, ACOG strongly advocates for equitable, exceptional, and respectful care for all women and people in need of obstetric and gynecologic care; maintains the highest standards of clinical practice and continuing education of its members; promotes patient education; and increases awareness among its members and the public of the changing issues facing patients and their families and communities. acog.org

About the American College of Physicians

The [American College of Physicians](http://americancollegeofphysicians.org) is the largest medical specialty organization in the United States with members in more than 172 countries worldwide. ACP membership includes 162,000 internal medicine physicians, related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. Follow ACP on [X](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

About the American Osteopathic Association

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) represents more than 200,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students; promotes public health; encourages scientific research; and serves as the primary certifying body for DOs. To learn more about DOs and the osteopathic philosophy of medicine, visit www.osteopathic.org.

About the American Psychiatric Association

The American Psychiatric Association, founded in 1844, is the oldest medical association in the country. The APA is also the largest psychiatric association in the world with more than 38,900 physician members specializing in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and research of mental illnesses. APA's vision is to ensure access to quality psychiatric diagnosis and treatment. For more information, please visit www.psychiatry.org.