

Medical Society of the State of New York

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Governor Spitzer's Proposal to Reduce Physician Shortages in Underserved Areas Makes Sense

Editor
The New York Times
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New York, NY 10018

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To the Editor,

The Governor is right (NY Times editorial 1/15/2008). There is a continuing downward spiral in the number of physicians practicing in the rural areas of New York State as well as in poor urban areas. Doctors from specialties – ranging from primary care to OB-GYN, surgery and psychiatry – just can't be found in many areas.

We graduate more medical students and residents than any state in the nation, but getting them to stay in New York is a real challenge. Costs of medical practice are increasing dramatically, and most young physicians are saddled with huge loans that must be repaid. Governor Spitzer's "Doctors across New York" proposal is a real step in redressing physician recruitment and retention problems by improving the practice environment for physicians in the state. In addition to the governor's initiative, [the Medical Society of the State of New York](#) supports improvements to existing programs designed to recruit underrepresented minorities to the practice of medicine as well as legislation to provide a state income tax credit for medical student loan repayment. As many of New York's rural patients know, we can't take health services for granted. The Governor's proposal is a good move.

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