


SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Values. Ethics. Advocacy.

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SDSMA PLEASED WITH DAUGAARD HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE EXPANSION PROPOSALS

SIOUX FALLS, SD – Jan. 10, 2012 - The SDSMA is pleased today that Governor Dugaard recognizes the very pressing issue of health care worker shortages in South Dakota by proposing several new measures to spur workforce growth.

“Any increase in the number of students we can educate in South Dakota will help alleviate the physician shortages we see in our rural areas,” said SDSMA President Karla K. Murphy, MD, of Sioux Falls.

Several factors contribute to the shortage of health care workers in our state: South Dakota’s rapidly aging population, a decreasing number of high school graduates and a need for physicians that outstrips the number of doctors that the Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota can supply.

The four new medical student slots per year for rural physician training previously announced in the governor’s fiscal year 2013 budget are very promising. The SDSMA also looks forward to participating in future conversations to identify further areas for growth.

Expanding the state’s physician tuition reimbursement program from 10 to 15 slots and broadening its scope will further encourage South Dakota medical students – who currently graduate with an average of about \$140,000 in loan debt – to stay in our state to serve our people.

SDSMA looks forward to working with state lawmakers on health care workforce development issues throughout the 2012 legislative session.

The SDSMA serves more than 2,000 physician members who are dedicated to the health of South Dakotans. The mission of the SDSMA is to promote the art and science of medicine, to protect and improve the health of the public and provide leadership and advocacy in the field of quality health care.
Learn more about the SDSMA at www.sdsma.org.

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