H.R. 1827: Pediatric Subspecialty and Mental Health Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2013

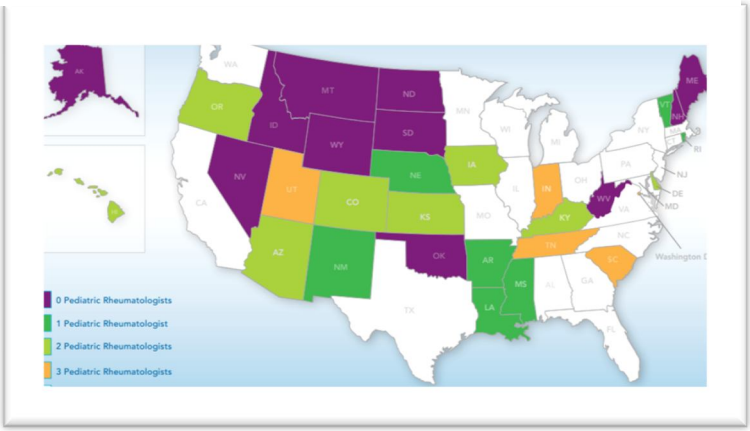
There are less than 250 board-certified practicing pediatric rheumatologists to care for America's 300,000 children living with Juvenile Arthritis.

Due to their scarcity, 75% of juvenile arthritis patients see either pediatricians, who tend not to be adequately trained to care for children with juvenile arthritis or adult rheumatologists, who are not trained to deal with pediatric issues, such as stunted bone growth. **There are currently 11 states that do not have a single board-certified, practicing pediatric rheumatologist and 7 states with only one.**

Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program

The pediatric subspecialty loan repayment program was authorized by Section 5203 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in March 2010 for $30 million for FY 2010 through FY 2014, but has yet to be appropriated any funding. The program, which would be administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), seeks to incentivize training and practice in pediatric medical subspecialties, like pediatric rheumatology, in underserved areas across the United States. **The program would offer up to $35,000 in loan forgiveness for each year of service for a maximum of three years.**

States with a Shortage of Pediatric Rheumatologists



President Obama and the Senate requested $5 million for the program in their FY 2014 budgets. Representative Joe Courtney (D-CT) has introduced the Pediatric Subspecialty and Mental Health Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2013 (HR 1827) to reauthorize this critical program.

Request

Please support access to care for America's children living with juvenile arthritis by cosponsoring H.R. 1827.

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