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Joint Committee on Finance Approves Funds for Family Medicine Residencies

Medical College of Wisconsin Commends Committee's Action

Milwaukee, May 13, 2019 – On May 9, the Wisconsin State Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance voted to approve enhanced funding for the Medical College of Wisconsin's (MCW) Family Medicine Residency programs. The committee allocated an additional \$1 million annually to the program.

MCW applauds the Joint Committee on Finance's unanimous, 14-0 vote to expand the program, as originally proposed under Governor Evers' 2019-2021 biennial budget proposal. MCW looks forward to continuing to work with the legislature to advance access to world-class healthcare across the state.

"Expanding annual appropriation will ensure the continuing viability of robust family medicine residency programs covering critical areas of Wisconsin," said Alan David, MD, chair and professor of medicine of MCW's Department of Family and Community Medicine. "Expanding family medicine residencies in the northeast and central regions will increase access to first-rate care, as the majority of physicians finishing these programs remain in-state to serve their patients."

Wisconsin has among the fewest family medicine residency training positions, per capita, of all midwestern states, even considering the state's generous and recent support for expanding family medicine programs statewide.

MCW's Department of Family and Community Medicine has affiliations with family medicine residency programs across the state, providing financial and other support. MCW's current role is to provide the expertise to hire qualified academic faculty, staff and appropriately chosen residents to assure the programs exceed the accreditation and certification standards of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

"Prevea Health deeply appreciates the Joint Finance Committee investing in the Eau Claire and Appleton family medicine residency programs," said Ashok Rai, MD, President and CEO of Prevea Health. "These programs are critical to maintaining the physician pipeline in the northern half of Wisconsin, including medically underserved areas. In addition, we are very excited to launch a program in the Green Bay area."

The state appropriation assists a number of critical family medicine residency programs throughout Southeast Wisconsin, now Appleton and Eau Claire, as well as a program in Green Bay that will be launching in the near future in partnership with Prevea and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital.

While the committee's approval of the funds is a significant step in securing the additional funding, the provision must gain approval from the full legislature and be signed into law by the Governor as part of the overall 2019-2021 biennial state budget.

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About the Medical College of Wisconsin

With a history dating back to 1893, The Medical College of Wisconsin is dedicated to leadership and excellence in education, patient care, research and community engagement. More than 1,400 students are enrolled in MCW's medical school and graduate school programs in Milwaukee, MCW-Green Bay, and MCW-Central Wisconsin. MCW's School of Pharmacy opened in 2017. A major national research center, MCW is the largest research institution in the Milwaukee metro area and second largest in Wisconsin. In FY2016, faculty received more than \$184 million in external support for research, teaching, training and related purposes. This total includes highly competitive research and training awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Annually, MCW faculty direct or collaborate on more than 3,100 research studies, including clinical trials. Additionally, more than 1,500 physicians provide care in virtually every specialty of medicine for more than 525,000 patients annually.