Medical Students and Residents - Special Message

During unprecedented time while we are working hard to protect physician’s patients and the public health I wanted to make sure you knew that we had not forgotten our students and resident sections at MedChi. I want to urge you to take two actions that could help us as this situation gets worse.

First, please consider taking a minute to sign up for The Maryland volunteer corp. If the COVID problem worsens we will need your help staffing the Baltimore Convention Center and other locations.

https://mdresponds.health.maryland.gov/

Second, could you take a second and ask your colleagues who are not members to join MedChi so they get the important alerts. All you have to do is have them fill out the form online at www.medchi.org or even easier just have them email us their name and year of residency or medical school and we will take care of the rest.

As you have probably heard, the CARES Act passed late last week, I wanted to highlight a few of the sections that I thought would be of benefit medical students and recent graduates:

- **Defers student loan payments and interest.** Defers student loan payments, principals, and interests through September 30, 2020. Additionally, during this time, involuntary collection related to student loans will be suspended. (Section 3513)
- **Federal Student Loan Flexibility.** Allows students who withdraw from school as a result of COVID-19 to not return Pell grants, other grant assistance, or loans. Additionally, for students who withdraw from school as a result of COVID-19, the current academic term would be excluded from counting toward lifetime subsidized loan or Pell grant eligibility. (Sections 3506, 3507, and 3508)
- **Use of Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants for Emergency Aid.** Schools are allowed to use Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants as emergency financial aid grants to assist graduate students with unexpected expenses and unmet financial needs that arise as the result of COVID-19. (Section 3504)
- **Federal Work-Study Flexibility during a Qualifying Emergency.** Institutions are allowed to transfer unused work-study funds to be used for supplemental grants. Additionally, it would give institutions the ability to issue work-study payments to students who are unable to work due to workplace closures, as a result of COVID-19, as a lump sum or in payments similar to paychecks. (Sections 3503 and 3505)
- **Continuing Education at Affected Foreign Institutions.** Supports foreign education institutions, including graduate medical programs, as they offer distance learning to U.S. students receiving Title IV funds for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Section 3510)

Thank you for being part of MedChi, I can’t say enough how important the student and resident section is to the future and current successes of our society.

Gene M. Ransom III
CEO MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society
Gene M. Ransom III
MedChi CEO