

GME: Top Ten Unfathomable Facts*

*To A Layperson

Kristen Mix

Former Chair, Colorado Commission on Family Medicine

No. 10

Graduate Medical
Education costs
government payers about
\$15 billion per year.

No. 9

None of the money comes from private insurance companies. All of the government funding comes from taxes.

No. 8

GME tax dollars are not paid directly to the residencies that produce the physicians. The money is paid to hospitals, which can basically spend the money however they want.

No. 7

Hospitals do not ever have to explain how they've spent GME money.

No. 6

The government doesn't pay different hospitals the same amount to produce the same physicians.

No. 5

Hospitals that receive GME money are not obligated to produce the physicians that the country needs most.

No. 4

It is unclear whether the government knows how the money for physician training is being used, but it probably doesn't.

No. 3

Despite all of the above, we keep doing the same thing year after year, and alternatives that work are not continued.

No. 2

We know what workforce we need to get better results. But instead tax dollars are being used to produce a surplus of other providers. Hence, the system is broken.

No. 1

"The U.S. ranks worst among 11 wealthy nations in terms of healthcare efficiency, equity and outcomes despite having the world's most expensive health care system."* AND there is no plan to address the problems through GME reform.

* *Time Magazine*, June 17, 2014