



Administrator
Washington, DC 20201

May 14, 2026

Nina Zeldes, Ph.D.
Health Researcher
Health Research Group
Public Citizen
1600 20th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Dr. Zeldes:

Thank you for the petition submitted by Public Citizen and the American Medical Student Association regarding resident physician work-hour standards. We appreciate the time and effort invested in compiling the extensive evidence and recommendations outlined in your submission.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) shares your commitment to promoting patient safety and ensuring a safe and healthful environment for both patients and healthcare workers. We recognize the important concerns raised regarding resident physician fatigue, well-being, and its potential impact on patient care.

As noted in your petition, CMS has authority under the Social Security Act to establish health and safety standards for providers participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. We acknowledge this authority and our responsibility to ensure that care furnished to beneficiaries meets appropriate standards of quality and safety.

At the same time, CMS has historically been attentive to the expert views of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) with respect to oversight of graduate medical education programs, including the need to establish and enforce resident duty-hour standards. As your petition itself recognizes, the ACGME is responsible for accrediting residency programs and for providing guidance on work hours, supervision, and training environments.

CMS believes that the ACGME is well-positioned to determine appropriate work-hour requirements in the context of balancing patient safety, educational objectives, and clinical training needs. The development of duty-hour standards requires careful consideration of specialty-specific demands, continuity of care, and the evolving evidence base - areas in which the accrediting body maintains subject-matter expertise.

We appreciate the detailed research and policy considerations presented in your petition, including the evidence regarding sleep deprivation, resident well-being, and patient safety

outcomes. CMS will take these perspectives into account as we continue to collaborate with stakeholders and monitor developments in graduate medical education and patient safety.

Thank you again for bringing these important issues forward and for your continued advocacy on behalf of resident physicians and the patients they serve. Please provide a copy of this response to the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mehmet Oz