

Resolution
With Regard to the Future of Medical Education in Florida

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors finds that Florida's future healthcare service needs are a joint responsibility among multiple stakeholders including hospitals, other healthcare-providing institutions, academic accrediting bodies, Florida's postsecondary institutions and, critically, the Florida Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors recognizes that virtually all potential actions to expand medical education have significant cost implications, the funding for which would need to be approved and provided by the Florida Legislature, and further, that any program leading to a degree offered as a credential for a license under Florida Law must be approved by the Florida Legislature pursuant to 1004.03(3), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that there is a shortage of physicians in Florida, particularly in certain geographical areas; that Florida's historical reliance on a large importation of physicians from other parts of the United States and beyond is not in the best interests of the public for the long-term; that, left unattended, this shortage will not diminish; and that, accordingly, Florida, a growing and dynamic state, must be proactive in planning for the future healthcare needs of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that, historically and currently, access to medical education for fully qualified Floridians has been limited by the number of seats in Florida's existing medical schools; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the policy of the State with respect to medical education must be a comprehensive approach, including at least the elements contained in this resolution, in order to meet the healthcare needs of Floridians; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds, along with virtually all stakeholders, that creating more medical residencies is a first and immediate priority for Florida's healthcare system, and therefore urges the Florida Legislature to work with the Board, the existing medical schools, and all other appropriate bodies and constituents to increase and fund an appropriate number of additional high-quality residencies affiliated with those medical schools through existing or new programs in order to attract and retain more Florida medical school graduates, including access to those from underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that institutions providing residency programs must be encouraged to periodically review their residency programs, making adjustments to ensure that residencies are in specialties that meet the needs of the population and that attract and retain new physicians, including access to those from underserved populations; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the creation of high-quality residencies, as a matter of policy the Board encourages the Legislature to consider providing funding for the existing Florida Health Service Corps and the Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program or by other means, to consider changes in law, as appropriate, that would incent Florida medical school graduates to practice in rural and other underserved areas, and to provide changes to our liability system such that new physicians can afford insurance and be able to enter the practice of medicine with the highest levels of professionalism without the overlay of financial insecurity and which will encourage those physicians to remain in the state long-term; and

WHEREAS, the Board supports and encourages cost-efficient plans for expanding current medical education programs in the State University System, including the FAU/UM medical partnership, subsequent to the Board's formal approval, and as a priority matter requests the Legislature to fully fund all current enrollments and future expanded enrollments and needed associated facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that, in addition to its findings set forth above, the two medical school proposals submitted by the University of Central Florida ("UCF") and Florida International University ("FIU") will create a source of high-quality jobs in their respective regions; that they will serve as growth engines for cutting-edge life sciences research and businesses; that the quality of life can be improved for the general population and surrounding areas; and that the growth will generate significant increases in state and local taxes annually that will support infrastructure needs and the ongoing operation of the two medical schools as presented; and

WHEREAS, the Board encourages the Legislature to evaluate the sources of these increased taxes to optimize the capture and use of these revenues by the state as needed to support the continued operation of these medical education programs and their ancillary needs; and

WHEREAS, it is the finding of the Board of Governors after extensive deliberation, testimony, and consideration, that Florida International University has performed the requisite feasibility and need-and-demand studies; planning and cost projections; analysis of current capabilities and resources; receipt of significant private funding commitments and continued exploration of such future private commitments; developed alliances and partnerships with appropriate hospitals and other institutions for high-quality residencies; and demonstrated return on investment in the form of regional economic development to warrant the Board's concurrence that this institution is positioned and stands ready to add to Florida's future medical education by implementing a high-quality school of medicine; and

WHEREAS, it is the finding of the Board of Governors after extensive deliberation, testimony, and consideration, that the University of Central Florida has performed the requisite feasibility and need-and-demand studies; planning and

cost projections; analysis of current capabilities and resources; receipt of significant private funding commitments and continued exploration of such future private commitments; developed alliances and partnerships with appropriate hospitals and other institutions for high-quality residencies; and demonstrated return on investment in the form of regional economic development to warrant the Board's concurrence that this institution is positioned and stands ready to add to Florida's future medical education by implementing a high-quality school of medicine; and

WHEREAS, the Board received advice and counsel from the Council for Education Policy, Research and Improvement's November 2004 "Medical Education Needs Analysis" (CEPRI Report) and considers it to be a cornerstone and blueprint for addressing Florida's future healthcare needs in a manner that is comprehensive, logical, action-oriented, collaborative, and expectant of tangible commitments on the parts of the Legislature, the Board of Governors, and the State University System.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Governors takes the following action:

1. The Board of Governors approves the comprehensive approach to medical education as set forth above and in the CEPRI Report.
2. The Board of Governors approves Florida International University's request for a medical school and will support the University as it seeks approval from the Florida Legislature, as required by 1004.03(3), Florida Statutes.
3. The Board of Governors approves the University of Central Florida's request for a medical school and will support the University as it seeks approval from the Florida Legislature, as required by 1004.03(3), Florida Statutes.
4. The Board of Governors will not seek funding with regard to the FIU and UCF medical education programs approved above during the 2006 Legislative Session, beyond any related matters already contained in its current 2006-07 Legislative Budget Request.
5. The Board of Governors has and will continue to seek, and will request that the Legislature provide, full funding of the current unfunded medical school expanded enrollments and related needed facilities at the existing medical schools within the State University System and the FAU/UM medical partnership and state funding of additional residencies, as expeditiously as possible.
6. The Board of Governors directs staff to transmit to the Legislature a copy of this resolution, the CEPRI Report with a view toward implementation of the programs it contains, and the economic impact studies prepared by consultants for UCF and FIU, along with the supplemental tax information. The Board of Governors requests that the Legislature undertake an evaluation of the tax revenue to be generated by the above

medical schools in order to create new state revenue sources, if appropriate, to support the ongoing needs of these medical education programs, residencies, and expanded enrollments associated with all of the state's medical education programs. The Board of Governors further requests that the Legislature undertake any other such appropriate actions to ensure that the annual State University System funding allocation from the Legislature for other educational programs and priorities will not be adversely affected by the substantial funding toward medical education.

7. The Board of Governors directs staff to develop, in conjunction with the University of Central Florida and Florida International University, a program of accountability measures addressing expenditures, expanded physician workforce, graduate medical education, direct and indirect economic development outcomes, or other measures, as appropriate, to be approved and continually evaluated by the Board of Governors.

8. The Board of Governors finds that it will not consider any future requests for medical schools, professional programs, or doctoral programs unless such requests are consistent with the Board of Governors' Strategic Plan, as it is modified from time to time, and are submitted in accordance with the Board's process for program approval.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Governors of the State of Florida at a public meeting thereof duly called and held this 23rd day of March 2006.