Preceptor Bill: The Rural Impact

The literature on rural healthcare workforce states primary care providers are likely to practice and stay in rural areas if training occurs outside of urban locations. Unfortunately, due to various circumstances, there are an inadequate number of rural primary care providers able and willing to precept. The number of students interested in rural practice far outweighs the number of preceptors needed for rural clinical rotations.

A primary care practice serves as the patient's first point of entry into the healthcare system and as the continuing focal point for all needed health care services.

Access to Care in Rural Colorado

13 counties in Colorado do not have a hospital

2 counties do not have a hospital or clinic

13% Population

77% Land

16% Over 65 years of age

57% Overweight or Obese adult

Rural Healthcare Workforce

How long does it take to recruit a primary care physician for rural Colorado?

On average, 1 to 3 years.

And more than six months to recruit an advanced practice nurse or physician assistant.
Incentives for primary care preceptors will foster the education of rural Colorado’s next generation of healthcare providers.

**Short Term Outcome**

Increase the number of preceptors in rural Colorado.

**Long Term Outcome**

Positively impact the healthcare workforce pipeline by supplying more rural primary care providers to Colorado through an increase in sustainable precepting opportunities.