Program. Several Texas Medical Association (TMA) supported Primary care programs also received a boost with an additional $1 million (up from the current $14.3 million) for GME expansion.

Since inception for physicians in Harris County.

ner in the budget. The Legislature appropriated a total of $53 discussed the HCMS ICD-10 campaign, the conclusion of the Medical Society Delegation to the TMA met for its first business and discussed the ICD-10 grace period and regulatory reform.  

The Harris County Medical Society serves as an advocate for physicians in Harris County.

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- On June 24, the HCMS Board of Directors met at the Galveston Island Beach Hotel, receiving a brief briefing on the 54th Annual Session as well as a review of the budget. TMA also received a total of $34 million (up from the current $34 million) for the maintenance of the ICD-10 program.

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- On April 15 the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) was finalized when President Obama signed the bill into law. The SGR Repeal Act (H.R. 3553) and the reintroduced Medicare and Children's Health Coverage Reconciliation Act (MCHCRA) of 2015. HCMH and TMA physicians have been working for months to secure these health care benefits for Texans. Two recent victories in the HCMS lobbyist area who played crucial roles in getting the bill passed including, Congressman Kevin Brady, Governor Greg Abbott, and Senator John Cornyn. TCPC & TMA President

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Payment Advocacy - The Payment Advocacy and Practice Management Department has assisted with 343 cases from Jan. 1, 2015 - June 30, 2015 since inception for physicians in Harris County.

Board on Socioeconomics - On June 4, the Board on Socioeconomics, chaired by Brian Briel, MD, met and discussed the following:
- The 12th Legislative Session: Senator Dana Rodriguez, MD, discussed the Texas Legislative Session 2015 Texas Legislative session, the SRG, IMC, Medicare, reimbursement, Texas standardization preauthorization forms, insurance, mandatory readmission rates, regulatory reform, labor market changes, payment management, and Medicaids/Medicare Dual Eligibility Demonstration Program.

Board on Medical Legislation - On June 24, the HCMS Board of Medical Legislation, chaired by Dwane G. Parr, MD, received a brief final briefing on the Legislative Bill as well as legislation that is currently in play, including including ICD-10, PBM, mental health, and patient safety. The Board also discussed 2016 elections and the races where incumbents had already announced they would not run for re-election.

The 85th Legislative Session - The Legislature adjourned on June 1 and Graduate Medical Education (GME) was a big winner in the budget. If approved, the Senate passed both $164 million (up from the current $143 million) for GME expansion.

Primary care programs also received a boost with an additional 664 positions to bring the total to 2,400 positions. The new positions would go to support general internists, family physicians, and geriatricians. The increased positions were also linked to Internal Medicine resident education programs. Overall, Texas received $164 million (up from the current $143 million) for GME expansion.

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