

The Reply



We appreciate the comments of Pangaro et al in response to our Commentary “A Service Commitment to Fund Your Medical Education.”¹ Our goal was to show this is a viable option for all those pursuing a career in medicine and a superior choice for some. The authors of the Letter to the Editor are the leaders of the Military Medical Education Establishment in the United States. Their approval of our Commentary means we were successful in our goal.

We noted at the outset that many of our comments were quite general and were often based on extrapolation of existing data, intuition, and common sense. We are delighted that the work of Marcu et al² provides a solid, hard numbers, intellectual confirmation of our impressions, especially that the lowest earners, essentially the primary

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care physicians, are the ones who would profit most from making a service commitment to fund their medical education.

After considering the new data, we are of the impression that taking a service commitment to fund your medical education offers so many financial advantages that the option should be offered routinely to all students entering allopathic and osteopathic medical schools in the United States before their first tuition payment is due. Students making a service commitment would also benefit the schools, because the military covers full tuition and fees, allowing the schools to devote their resources to other students.

We noted the intangibles of a service commitment, the pride and honor of serving one’s country. We are delighted that Pangaro et al emphasized this further. Some things just can’t be repeated often enough.

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