Problem: There is a shortage of primary care physicians in underserved areas. *Doctors Across New York* fails to recruit enough physicians to address this issue.

Current Program: *Doctors Across New York* aims to establish primary care in the most medically underserved areas of New York by providing a financial incentive for physicians. The program offers a maximum of $150,000 in exchange for a minimum five year commitment to practice in these areas.

Background:
- The demand for primary care continues to grow while the majority of positions filled by medical school graduates continue to be non-primary care sub-specialties.
- There will be a shortage of 45,000 primary care physicians in the next decade.
- A major deterrent in pursuing a career in primary care is medical school debt. Average medical school debt at the time of graduation was $160,000 for the class of 2009.
- California and Arizona have shorter loan repayment requirements and have filled 100% of their positions.
- In 2009, only 50% of loan repayment positions were filled.
- The federal loan repayment program, National Health Service Corps offers increased flexibility in its program, allocating $50,000 over 2 years with options to extend service.

Request: Amend the Physician Loan Repayment portion of the “Doctors Across New York” program service requirement from a five year obligation to an option ranging from 2-5 years to increase recruitment into the program and bring primary care physicians to underserved areas across New York.