# Seoul High Court Rules in Favor of South Korean Government's Medical School Admissions Increase Plan



The Seoul High Court has ruled in favor of the South Korean government's plan to significantly increase medical school admissions, a policy that has caused a months-long standoff between the government and medical professionals. The decision was announced on Thursday.

The plan aims to raise the medical school enrollment quota by 2,000 next year, up from the current cap of 3,058. This move has led to a strike involving over 10,000 junior doctors since February. These junior doctors are a critical component in some leading hospitals, comprising approximately 30% to 40% of the workforce, and their absence has led to the cancellation of numerous surgeries and other treatments.

Government officials have argued that the increase in medical school admissions is essential due to South Korea's rapidly aging population and its relatively low doctor-to-population ratio among developed nations. The officials believe that adding more doctors is necessary to meet future healthcare demands.

Opponents of the plan, including the striking doctors, argue that medical schools are not prepared to handle the sudden increase in students. They assert that this would degrade the quality of medical education and services. Additionally, they claim that the increased competition could push doctors to perform unnecessary treatments, although critics suggest that the opposition is more about protecting doctors' incomes from potential reduction due to increased competition.

The doctors are expected to appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court of South Korea.