

The Honorable Carol Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
465 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Annie Kuster
U.S. House of Representatives
2201 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Miller and Kuster,

Thank you for your efforts to expand clinical training opportunities for medical students through the introduction of the *Community Training, Education, and Access for Medical Students (TEAMS) Act*. This legislation will increase medical school clinical rotations in rural and underserved areas, strengthen the physician pipeline and lead to greater healthcare access in disadvantaged communities. The undersigned organizations strongly support the *Community TEAMS Act*.

To address workforce shortages and community needs, the provision of healthcare is shifting away from centralized hospitals to encompass more lower-cost, community-based settings. As the provision of care has shifted to community facilities, so has the training of medical students. The community-based distributed training model of education is used by the vast majority of osteopathic (DO) and new allopathic (MD) medical schools. However, [more than 75 percent](#) of all medical schools report concerns about the number of clinical training sites.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) are community-based facilities that serve [more than 31 million patients](#) at over 14,000 locations. These facilities provide training opportunities for medical students but [80 percent of physician training](#) still occurs in academic medical centers. Providing more clinical training at FQHCs and RHCs will result in greater healthcare access as medical students who train in these settings are [more likely to practice](#) in them.

The *Community TEAMS Act* addresses the need for more clinical training sites by establishing a new HRSA grant program for osteopathic and allopathic medical schools to partner with FQHCs, RHCs or other healthcare facilities located in medically underserved communities. Clinical training in community-based settings exposes medical students to the unique healthcare needs of disadvantaged populations and prepares them to serve these communities after graduation.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. The undersigned organizations stand ready to work with you to advance the *Community TEAMS Act*. For any questions, please contact Dave Bergman, JD, AACOM Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Health Affairs, at dbergman@aacom.org.

Signatories as of March 19, 2024

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

American Academy of Osteopathy

American College of Osteopathic Internists

American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians

American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine

American Osteopathic Association

American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists

American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine

American Osteopathic College of Radiology Council of Academic Family Medicine

American Osteopathic Colleges of Ophthalmology & Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

National Rural Health Association

STATE ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama Osteopathic Medical Association

Colorado Society of Osteopathic Medicine

Delaware State Osteopathic Medical Society

Idaho Osteopathic Physicians Association

Indiana Osteopathic Association

Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association

Maine Osteopathic Association

Minnesota Rural Health Association

Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association

Nebraska Osteopathic Medical Association

New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons

New York State Association for Rural Health

North Carolina Osteopathic Medical Association

Pennsylvania Rural Health Association

Rhode Island Society of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons

Rural Health Association of Tennessee

Tennessee Osteopathic Medical Association

Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association

Washington Osteopathic Medical Association

West Virginia Rural Health Association

Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons