

March 23, 2015

The Honorable Tim Ryan
United States House of Representatives
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Ryan:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for the Expanding Nutrition's Role in Curricula and Healthcare Act, or the ENRICH Act. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in introducing this important piece of legislation, which ultimately aims to improve the prevention of obesity and other chronic diseases through further educating future physicians. There has never been a better time to address the growing need for prevention education.

AACOM represents the 30 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 42 teaching locations in 28 states. In the 2014-15 academic year, these colleges are educating over 24,600 future physicians – more than 20 percent of U.S. medical students. Six of the colleges are publicly controlled; 24 are private institutions.

Prevention education is a mainstay of primary care and is paramount to osteopathic physicians, with 60 percent practicing in primary care specialties. By the year 2016, more than 100,000 osteopathic physicians will be practicing in the U.S. today. With an increasing number of osteopathic physicians entering the physician workforce, it is critical to support policies such as the ENRICH ACT, which would enable medical schools to develop and enhance more robust curricula surrounding nutrition, physical activity, and prevention.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support of this legislation and I thank you for your sustained leadership and commitment to nutrition education.

Respectfully,



Stephen C. Shannon, D.O., M.P.H.
President and CEO