

May 5, 2015

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
1319 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ruiz:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for H.R. 1006, the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in introducing this critical legislation, which seeks to address the nation's physician workforce shortage and expand opportunities for future physicians training in primary care to meet the growing health care needs across this country.

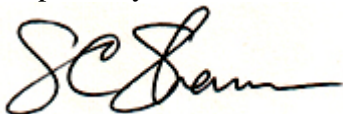
AACOM represents the 31 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 44 teaching locations in 29 states. In the 2014-2015 academic year, these colleges educated over 24,600 future physicians – more than 25 percent of new U.S. medical students.

As educators of future osteopathic physicians, we strongly support policies, including the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*, that put in place innovative and cost-effective solutions to sufficiently address the nation's need for a stronger primary care physician workforce. Additionally, this legislation aims to bolster the primary care workforce by increasing opportunities for medical schools to support students engaging in initiatives, such as those in which primary care physicians take a leadership role in delivery system reform.

The *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act* will expand access to patient care and is crucial to those in rural and underserved areas, which already face a scarcity of primary care physicians. Furthermore, it will make additional improvements to the nation's health care system by setting sound policies such as taking significant steps to reduce administrative burdens on physicians while maintaining high-quality patient care.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our strong support of the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*. I would like to thank you for your steadfast leadership and commitment in supporting a health care system that will enable current osteopathic medical students and future osteopathic physicians to provide high quality care to the patients they serve. I look forward to our continued work together in supporting a robust primary care workforce.

Respectfully,



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

cc: Representatives McKinley, Takano, Vela, Hinojosa, and Grijalva