

May 12, 2015

The Honorable Dick Durbin
U.S. Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. Senate
703 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Durbin and Cassidy:


On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), thank you for introducing the *Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act of 2015*. I commend you for your leadership and strong bipartisan commitment to ensuring uniform standards exist at non-U.S. medical schools receiving Title IV federal financial aid funding, and I offer our support for this important legislation.

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. Six of the colleges are publicly controlled; 25 are private institutions. In the 2014 – 2015 academic year, these colleges are educating over 24,600 future physicians – more than 25 percent of new first-year U.S. medical students.

As you know, this bill would require that all foreign medical schools be held to the same standards and accountability in order to receive Title IV federal financial aid. Under current law, certain foreign medical schools are exempt from meeting requirements that other foreign medical schools are required to meet in order to receive this federal funding.

Thank you, again, for your steadfast leadership and dedication to working to ensure medical students and schools are well served by the Title IV federal financial aid programs. We look forward to working together on this important legislation and other matters of mutual interest.

Respectfully,



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