

June 26, 2015

The Honorable Matt Salmon
U.S. House of Representatives
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Alcee Hastings
U.S. House of Representatives
2353 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Salmon and Hastings:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for the *Assuring Quality Outcomes in Higher Education Act of 2015*. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this legislation that would address specific proposed and pending regulations imposed by the Department of Education.

As you know, this legislation would require the Secretary of Education to complete a data analysis study on the impact of all income or employment-based outcome measures of quality in higher education before issuing or implementing regulations utilizing such metrics. We support policies such as *Assuring Quality Outcomes in Higher Education Act of 2015*, which is thoughtful in its approach to analyzing the impact of these regulations prior to implementation.

Today, more than 24,600 students are enrolled at osteopathic medical schools, and more than 20 percent of new U.S. medical students are training to be osteopathic physicians. By 2019, that number is expected to grow to 25 percent. AACOM recognizes the significant undergraduate and graduate debt burden so many osteopathic medical school students graduate with, and we continue to support policies and programs which support osteopathic medical schools and its students participating in programs under Title IV federal financial aid programs.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support for the *Assuring Quality Outcomes in Higher Education Act of 2015*, and thank you for your commitment on this important effort to more thoroughly examine the potential impact of these regulations prior to enactment. I look forward to working together on this important matter.

Respectfully,



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