

July 2, 2015

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
U.S. House of Representatives
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Foxx:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for H.R. 970, the *Supporting Academic Freedom through Regulatory Relief Act*. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this legislation that would decrease costly and onerous regulations for educational institutions.

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.

Many of the regulations addressed in this bill have failed to achieve their intended outcomes, yet impose a significant cost and burden on institutions. This legislation would eliminate these regulations and work to prevent future consequences which negatively impact postsecondary institutions. This is a necessary step to ensure that higher education issues are addressed in a thoughtful, comprehensive way with the full input of Congress and other stakeholders.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support of the *Supporting Academic Freedom through Regulatory Relief Act*, and I thank you for your commitment toward working to ensure medical students and schools are well served by the Title IV federal financial aid programs.

I look forward to working together on this important matter.

Respectfully,



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