

September 6, 2012

The Honorable John Sarbanes
U.S. House of Representatives
2444 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sarbanes:

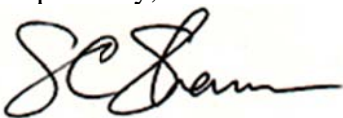
On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), which represents the nation's colleges of osteopathic medicine and their physicians in training, I offer support for H.R. 5888, the Physician Reentry Demonstration Program Act. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation, which will help to address the current and projected physician workforce shortages occurring across the country.

AACOM represents the administrations, faculty, and students of the nation's osteopathic colleges, which offer the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree. There are 29 colleges of osteopathic medicine at 37 locations in 28 states. Currently more than 20,000 medical students – 1 in 5 students at a U.S. medical school – are studying at an osteopathic medical school.

As educators of future osteopathic physicians, we support legislation, such as H.R. 5888, which takes a positive step toward ensuring an adequately trained physician workforce that meets the needs of patients. This is particularly important now that the number of osteopathic medical school graduates is growing and is projected to grow in response to existing and projected physician workforce shortages. Large numbers of osteopathic medical school graduates pursue careers in primary care and practice in rural and underserved areas where the primary care shortages are most acute.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support for H.R. 5888, the Physician Reentry Demonstration Program Act, and I thank you for your commitment and leadership to support policies that strengthen the physician workforce and enhance patient care. I look forward to working together on this important matter.

Respectfully,



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