



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 31, 2014

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
711 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), thank you for introducing S.1822, The Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act of 2013. I commend you for your leadership and strong commitment to ensuring uniform standards exist at non-U.S. medical schools receiving Title IV federal financial aid funding, and I offer support for this important bill.

AACOM represents the 30 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 42 teaching locations in 28 states. In the 2013-14 academic year, these colleges are educating over 23,000 future physicians – more than 20 percent of U.S. medical students. Six of the colleges are publicly controlled; 24 are private institutions.

As you know, this legislation 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 to receive this federal funding.

Thank you, again, for your steadfast leadership and dedication 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 legislation and other matters of mutual interest.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SC Shannon", written in a cursive style.

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

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