

# AACOM ADVOCACY DAY

OCTOBER 6-7, 2021



## AACOM ADVOCACY DAY 2021: SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLKIT

This AACOM Advocacy Day, we are calling all [#AACOMAdvocates](#) to make a difference. Add your voice on Twitter and Facebook to connect with Congress about federal policies and programs important to the osteopathic medical education (OME) community. Use these sample posts below or draft your own to advocate for OME federal policy priorities.

Not sure who your Representative or Senators are? Use our “Find Officials” tool in AACOM’s [Action Center](#).

## WANT YOUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE?

Follow these tips:

**Share your story.** Personalize your message, phone call, and tweet to tell your member of Congress why the issue is important to you. (E.g. “as a DO”, “as an osteopathic medical student”, include the state/district hashtag like #CA-17)

**Get your lawmaker’s attention.** Identify yourself as a constituent to remind them why this issue is critical to your state/district – and why they should pay attention.

**Bonus:** include one of our [pre-made graphics](#) and [#AACOMAdvocates](#).

**Declare your ask.** Now that you’ve explained the issue, don’t forget to clearly state what you want.

## SHARE THIS

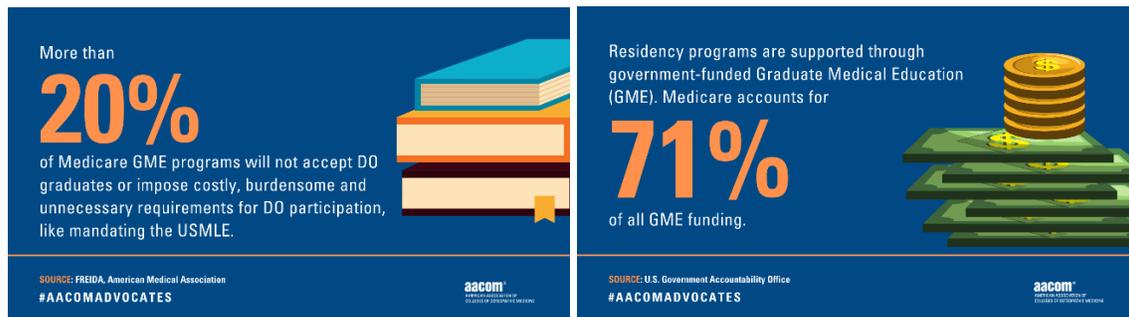
### Support Graduate Medical Education Parity for DOs

- On this AACOM #AdvocacyDay we’re asking Congress to take action to end discriminatory practices against DOs within federally funded GME. Unjustified barriers for DOs entering residency exacerbate the physician shortage and limit healthcare access as 73% of DOs practice in their state of residency. [#AACOMAdvocates](#)

- Residency programs are supported through government-funded GME. +20% of Medicare GME programs will not accept DO graduates or impose unnecessary requirements for DO participation. #AACOMAdvocates urge Congress to end discriminatory practices against DOs within federally funded GME programs.
- DO and MD requirements are parallel, both leading to unrestricted physician licenses. Taxpayer funded GME should not be able to discriminate against a licensed physician based on their degree. Ask Congress to take action to end discriminatory practices against DOs. #AACOMAdvocates

Learn more about [Graduate Medical Education Parity for DOs](#).

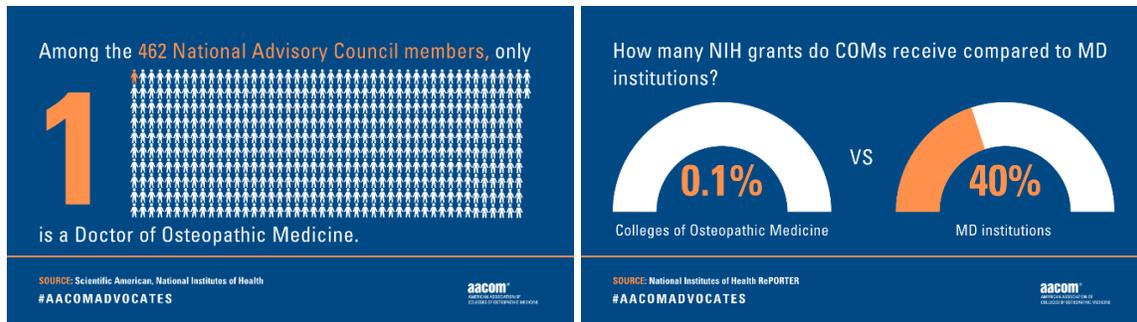
### [DOWNLOAD GRAPHICS](#)



## Expand Osteopathic Research and Representation at the NIH

- #Osteopathic #medschools are critically underfunded by the NIH, despite educating nearly 1/4 of U.S. physicians. It's time we raise our voice and tell Congress to increase funding for DO researchers and expand #osteopathic representation at the @NIH. #AACOMAdvocates
  - Funding disparity for #osteopathic medical research discourages DOs from applying for @NIH grants and disadvantages our #medstudents applying to residency because they lack access to research opportunities. We need to increase funding for DO researchers. #AACOMAdvocates
  - #Osteopathic #medschools currently educate nearly 34,000 physicians—25% of all U.S. #medstudents. Yet they only receive 0.1% of NIH #grants. Tell Congress to pass legislation to increase funding for DO researchers and expand osteopathic representation at the @NIH. #AACOMAdvocates
- Learn more about [NIH Research Funding and Representation for COMs](#).

### [DOWNLOAD GRAPHICS](#)

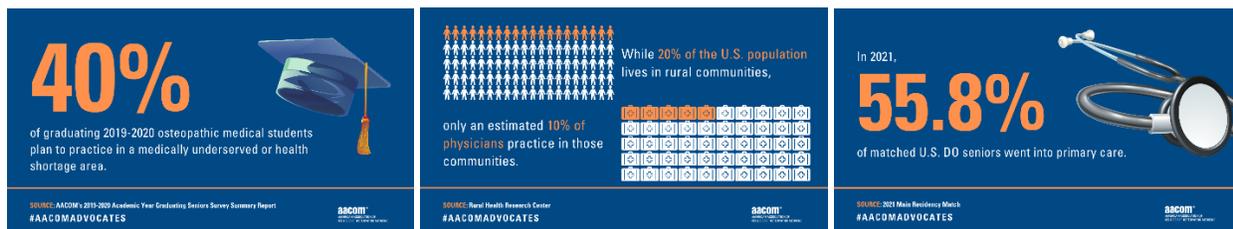


## Support the Rural Physician Workforce Production Act

- Increasing the number of rural physicians will require targeted #GME solutions. [@Your Representative](#), please support S. 1893 to help increase the physician workforce in underserved areas. #AACOMAdvocates
- It's AACOM's Advocacy Day and I'm calling on [@Your Representative](#) to expand access to #healthcare in rural communities by supporting the Rural Physician Workforce Production Act (S. 1893). #AACOMAdvocates
- Many physicians practice where they train, disadvantaging rural hospitals that can't afford residency programs. S. 1893 tackles the geographic maldistribution of physicians across the U.S. by strengthening Medicare-funded #GME in rural areas. #AACOMAdvocates

Learn more about the [Rural Physician Workforce Production Act](#).

### DOWNLOAD GRAPHICS



## Support the Student Assisted Vaccination Effort (SAVE) Act

- On AACOM's Advocacy Day, I'm urging [@Tag your representatives](#) to support the SAVE Act and allow health professions students to vaccinate during #publichealth emergencies. #AACOMAdvocates
- A #healthcare workforce shortage hindered the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. The SAVE Act would allow health professions students to administer vaccines during a future #publichealth crisis. [@Your Representative](#) support S. 2114. #AACOMAdvocates
- The next pandemic could happen anytime. That's why I'm calling on Congress to support the SAVE Act, a bill that will permanently allow health professions students to vaccinate during a #publichealth emergency. #AACOMAdvocates

Learn more about the [Student Assisted Vaccination Effort \(SAVE\) Act](#).

## [DOWNLOAD GRAPHICS](#)

<p><b>SAVE Act</b> authorizes health professions students to vaccinate during future public health emergencies.</p>  <p><small>SOURCE: SAVE Act (S. 2114) #AACOMADVOCATES</small></p> <p><small>aacom AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE</small></p>	<p>Would create more than <b>1 MILLION</b> qualified vaccinators, including students from the fields of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physician assistant, dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine and others.</p>  <p><small>SOURCE: Students Assist America, aacom.org/mobilize #AACOMADVOCATES</small></p> <p><small>aacom AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE</small></p>
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## OTHER GRAPHICS

#AACOMADVOCATES

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

More than  
**86%**  
of osteopathic medical students who attend medical school and do residency training in a state will practice in that state.



SOURCE: AACOM/ADA Data Masterfile  
#AACOMADVOCATES

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

More than  
**73%**  
of DOs will practice in the state where they do residency training.



SOURCE: AACOM/ADA Data Masterfile  
#AACOMADVOCATES

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COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

For questions about AACOM's Advocacy Day, please visit our [event web page](#) or email AACOM Government Relations at [aacomgr@aacom.org](mailto:aacomgr@aacom.org).