



Cosponsor the bipartisan *Community TEAMS Act* to increase healthcare access for underserved communities by increasing community-based medical student clinical rotations

Purpose

Physicians are more likely to practice where they train. The bipartisan *Community TEAMS Act* expands medical school clinical rotations in rural and underserved communities to grow the physician workforce and improve access to care.

The Problem

Physician training has not kept pace with where care is delivered: **80% of physician training takes place in academic hospitals, but only 20% of hospital admissions occur there.** Addressing workforce shortages requires expanding training beyond centralized hospitals into lower-cost, community-based sites that better reflect patient and community needs.

Most osteopathic (DO) and new allopathic (MD) medical schools use a community-based distributed training model that prepares students to provide care for rural and underserved populations. **However, more than three-quarters of all medical schools report concerns about the availability of clinical training sites.**

An AACOM survey of osteopathic medical school deans found:

- **100%** had at least some difficulty finding OB/GYN rotations, with **62%** having major difficulty
- **60%** reported major difficulty with pediatrics rotations; and
- **45%** reported major difficulty finding psychiatry rotations

Why It Matters

No federal program is dedicated exclusively to creating new clinical rotations for medical students in rural and underserved communities, leaving a critical gap in the physician workforce pipeline.

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) serve more than 32 million patients at more than 16,000 locations and provide valuable community-based training opportunities in rural and underserved communities. **Medical students who train in underserved areas are almost three times more likely to practice in underserved areas and four times more likely to practice primary care in those areas.**

What the Community TEAMS Act Does

The *Community TEAMS Act* establishes a new Health Resources and Services Administration grant program to increase medical school clinical rotations through partnerships between DO and MD medical schools and FQHCs, RHCs or other healthcare facilities located in medically underserved communities.

The Community TEAMS Act is led in the House by Reps. Carol Miller (R-WV), Marc Veasey (D-TX), Sam Graves (R-MO) and Troy Carter (D-LA) and in the Senate by Sens. John Curtis (R-UT) and Angus King (I-ME).

About AACOM

Founded in 1898, AACOM represents all 48 colleges of osteopathic medicine, which educate more than 40,000 students, or 30 percent of all U.S. medical students, across 75 campuses, as well as osteopathic GME professionals and trainees nationwide. **Contact David Bergman, Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Health Affairs, dbergman@aacom.org (301) 968-4174.**