

Cosponsor the Bipartisan FAIR Act (H.R. 2314) -- Ensure Medical Students Equal Access to Residency Programs

Sending Office: Honorable Diana Harshbarger

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Request for
Cosponsor(s)

Support the Bipartisan FAIR Act (H.R. 2314/S.2715)

Ensure Medical Students Have Equal Access to Residency Programs

Cosponsor [H.R. 2314/ S.2715](#)

119th House Cosponsors (18): Reps. Harshbarger (R-TN), Pingree (D-ME)*, Graves (R-MO)*, Miller (R-WV)*, Davis (D-NC)*, Kelly (R-PA), Thompson (R-PA), Rogers (R-AL), Cohen (D-TN), Bacon (R-NE), Burchett (R-TN), Cline (R-VA), Vasquez (D-NM), McGuire (R-VA), Owens (R-UT), Crawford (R-AR), Goldman (R-TX), Bean (R-FL), Kiggans (R-VA)

119th Senate Cosponsors (7): Sens. Daines (R-MT), Heinrich (D-NM)*, King (I-ME)*, Britt (R-AL), Tuberville (R-AL), Sheehy (R-MT), Shaheen (D-NH), Ossoff (D-GA)

A full list of endorsing organizations is available [here](#).

A one-page summary of the legislation is available [here](#) .

Dear Colleague:

We write to urge you to cosponsor H.R. 2314/S. 2715, the Fair Access In Residency (FAIR) Act. Every year, thousands of fully licensed physicians are shut out from taxpayer-funded medical training programs, not because of their qualifications, but because of the type of medical school they attend. To make matters worse, this is happening as the United States is facing a physician shortage crisis, particularly in rural and underserved

areas. The FAIR Act is an opportunity to level the playing field and ensure federal dollars are working for patients, not against them.

Osteopathic medicine is an essential part of the nation's healthcare workforce and one of the fastest-growing medical professions in the country. Today, osteopathic medical schools educate more than 38,000 future physicians, representing nearly 30 percent of all U.S. medical students. Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs) are meeting our nation's healthcare needs, prioritizing primary care specialties and practicing in rural and underserved areas at notably high rates. In 2025, 52.1 percent of matched DO seniors entered primary care, and more than 73 percent of DOs practice in the state where they complete residency training, making equitable access to residency programs critical to addressing workforce shortages.

Yet bias against osteopathic physicians remains widespread. A 2025 AACOM survey of graduating DO seniors found that 63 percent of DO seniors entering the Match experienced bias. Nearly two in five respondents were excluded from audition rotations that serve as a pathway to selection, and 32 percent encountered interviewers who negatively characterized their osteopathic degree. Despite COMLEX-USA being accepted for physician licensure in all 50 states, 64 percent of DO seniors reported planning to take the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) solely to remain competitive for residency positions, incurring an average of \$2,335 in additional fees and 32 hours of testing time.

These discriminatory practices limit specialty choice, exacerbate physician shortages, and undermine access to care in the communities that need physicians most. Despite years of discussions among stakeholders, no acceptable solution has emerged. Congressional action is needed.

The FAIR Act establishes two reasonable requirements for Medicare-funded GME programs:

1. Provide transparency through annual reporting on the number of DO and MD applicants and accepted residents; and
2. Affirm that DO applications and the COMLEX-USA are accepted for consideration.

The FAIR Act does not federalize the practice of medicine, establish quotas, or expand government involvement in residency selection. It builds on existing Medicare GME reporting requirements to promote transparency and ensure qualified DO applicants receive fair consideration. By reducing unnecessary barriers to residency training,

the FAIR Act will help strengthen the physician workforce and improve access to care in the communities that need it most.

If you would like to cosponsor H.R. 2314 or have any questions, please contact Peter Stein (peter.stein@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Harshbarger's office, or Evan Johnston (evan.johnston@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Pingree's office.

Sincerely,

DIANA HARSHBARGER, Pharm.D.

Member of Congress

CHELLIE PINGREE

Member of Congress