

The Honorable Diana Harshbarger  
U.S. House of Representatives  
167 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chellie Pingree  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2354 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Carol Miller  
U.S. House of Representatives  
465 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Davis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1123 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Harshbarger, Pingree, Graves, Miller and Davis,

Thank you for your efforts to ensure parity in the Medicare graduate medical education (GME) program through the introduction of the *Fair Access In Residency (FAIR) Act*. This legislation will help strengthen the physician pipeline, support equitable treatment of osteopathic medical students and increase access to patient-centered healthcare in rural and underserved areas. The undersigned organizations strongly support the *FAIR Act*.

Medicare funds 71 percent of all GME. Yet too many federally-funded residency programs frequently exclude or impose burdensome requirements on doctors of osteopathic medicine (DOs). According to the 2024 National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) Program Director Survey, 29 percent of residency program directors never or seldom interview DO candidates, which is required for residency selection. Moreover, almost three-quarters (73 percent) of residency programs mandate osteopathic medical students take the MD licensing exam, the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).

These practices restrict the specialty choices of osteopathic medical students and frustrate healthcare access by impeding physician distribution. More than half of DOs practice in primary care specialties and 73 percent practice in the state where they do their residency training so restricting access to the profession undermines healthcare in rural and underserved communities.

The *FAIR Act* requires federally-funded GME programs to: (1) report annually the number of DO and MD applicants and accepted residents; and (2) affirm annually that DO applications and the COMLEX-USA are accepted for consideration. Failure to report these results will result in a two percent (2%) annual decrease in Indirect Medical Education payments.

Osteopathic medicine is one of the fastest growing health professions in the United States and colleges of osteopathic medicine educate 29 percent of all medical students. DOs are meeting our nation's healthcare needs, prioritizing primary care specialties, and practicing in rural and underserved areas where care is in demand. The *FAIR Act* will help remove unnecessary and unfair barriers for DOs and strengthen the healthcare training system.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. The undersigned organizations stand ready to work with you to advance the *FAIR Act*. For any questions, please contact Dave Bergman, JD, AACOM Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Health Affairs, at [dbergman@acom.org](mailto:dbergman@acom.org).

### **Signatories as of April 4, 2025**

#### **NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

##### **American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine**

Academy for Professionalism in Health Care  
American Academy of Osteopathy  
American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons  
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons – Medical Student Section  
American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine  
American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics  
American Osteopathic Association of Prolotherapy Regenerative Medicine  
American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists  
American Osteopathic College of Dermatology  
American Osteopathic College of Pathologists  
American Osteopathic College of Radiology  
American Osteopathic Colleges of Ophthalmology & Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery  
American Geriatrics Society  
Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators  
Association of Osteopathic State Executive Directors  
Baptist Health Science University System  
Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation  
Benefis Health System  
Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents  
National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners  
National Hispanic Health Foundation  
National Rural Health Association  
Society of Osteopathic Specialty Executives  
The Wright Center for Community Health  
The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education

#### **STATE ORGANIZATIONS**

Alabama Osteopathic Medical Association  
Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association  
Arkansas Osteopathic Medical Association  
Colorado Society of Osteopathic Medicine  
Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society  
Delaware State Osteopathic Medical Society  
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association  
Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association

Idaho Osteopathic Physicians Association  
Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society  
Indiana Osteopathic Association  
Indiana Rural Health Association  
Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association  
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine  
Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association  
Maine Osteopathic Association  
Maryland Association of Osteopathic Physicians  
Michigan Osteopathic Association  
Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association  
Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons  
Montana Osteopathic Medical Association  
Nebraska Osteopathic Medical Association  
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons  
New Mexico Osteopathic Medical Association  
North Carolina Osteopathic Medical Association  
Ohio Osteopathic Association  
Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of California  
Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of Oregon  
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association  
Rhode Island Society of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons  
South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society  
Southwest Virginia Graduate Medical Education Consortium  
Tennessee Osteopathic Medical Association  
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association  
Texas Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians  
Utah Osteopathic Medical Association  
Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association  
Virginia Rural Health Association  
Washington Osteopathic Medical Association  
Washington State Medical Association  
West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association  
Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons