

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@aacom.org.

Signatories as of May 13, 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 Internists
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