

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Tom Cole  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2207 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2421 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dina Titus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2464 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Cole, Mullin and Titus,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for H.R. 6397, the *Medical Student Education Authorization Act of 2022*. As educators of future physicians, we strongly support policies that foster the development of primary care physicians dedicated to serving tribal, rural and medically underserved communities.

AACOM leads and advocates for the full continuum of osteopathic medical education (OME) to improve the health of the public. Founded in 1898 to support and assist the nation's osteopathic medical schools, AACOM represents all 38 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) — educating nearly 34,000 future physicians, 25 percent of all U.S. medical students—at 59 teaching locations in 34 U.S. states, as well as osteopathic graduate medical education professionals and trainees at U.S. medical centers, hospitals, clinics and health systems.

OME has a proven history of addressing unmet needs, including in rural and underserved areas and primary care specialties. The OME community strongly supports H.R. 6397 and believes it will help increase primary care physicians in states with the most severe provider shortages. Physician distribution is influenced by training, and most practice within 100 miles of their residency program. Fifty-eight percent of colleges of osteopathic medicine are located in Health Professional Shortage Areas, and over 86% of osteopathic medical students who attend medical school and do residency training in a state will practice in that state. Moreover, fifty-six percent of DOs practice in primary care. Forty-one percent of graduating 2020-2021 osteopathic medical students plan to practice in a medically underserved or health shortage area; of those, 49 percent plan to practice in a rural community.

Thank you for your commitment to the future physician workforce. AACOM looks forward to working with you to advance H.R. 6397. For questions or additional information, please contact me at [dbergman@aacom.org](mailto:dbergman@aacom.org).

Sincerely,



David Bergman, JD

February 17, 2022

The Honorable James Inhofe  
United States Senate  
205 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jacky Rosen  
United States Senate  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Inhofe and Rosen,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for S. 3497, the *Medical Student Education Authorization Act of 2022*. As educators of future physicians, we strongly support policies that foster the development of primary care physicians dedicated to serving tribal, rural and medically underserved communities.

AACOM leads and advocates for the full continuum of osteopathic medical education (OME) to improve the health of the public. Founded in 1898 to support and assist the nation's osteopathic medical schools, AACOM represents all 38 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs)— educating nearly 34,000 future physicians, 25 percent of all U.S. medical students—at 59 teaching locations in 34 U.S. states, as well as osteopathic graduate medical education professionals and trainees at U.S. medical centers, hospitals, clinics and health systems.

OME has a proven history of addressing unmet needs, including in rural and underserved areas and primary care specialties. The OME community strongly supports S. 3497 and believes it will help increase primary care physicians in states with the most severe provider shortages. Physician distribution is influenced by training, and most practice within 100 miles of their residency program. Fifty-eight percent of colleges of osteopathic medicine are located in Health Professional Shortage Areas, and over 86% of osteopathic medical students who attend medical school and do residency training in a state will practice in that state. Moreover, fifty-six percent of DOs practice in primary care. Forty-one percent of graduating 2020-2021 osteopathic medical students plan to practice in a medically underserved or health shortage area; of those, 49 percent plan to practice in a rural community.

Thank you for your commitment to the future physician workforce. AACOM looks forward to working with you to advance S. 3497. For questions or additional information, please contact me at [dbergman@aacom.org](mailto:dbergman@aacom.org).

Sincerely,



David Bergman, JD