

April 1, 2022

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Whitehouse and Padilla,

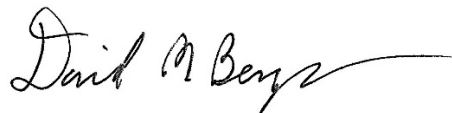
On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for S. 3828, the *Student Loan Forgiveness for Frontline Health Workers Act*. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in re-introducing this important legislation to help alleviate the burden of student loan debt for frontline healthcare workers responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

AACOM leads and advocates for the full continuum of osteopathic medical education 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—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.

AACOM lauds your recognition of the crucial role that health workers play in delivering vital services and care to communities across the country during this pandemic. In particular, osteopathic medical students actively choose to become primary care physicians, who are essential to identifying, treating, and preventing disease, and who serve as patients' first healthcare point of contact. In 2022, 55 percent of osteopathic seniors matched to primary care specialties of family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics.

Thank you for your efforts to establish federal and private loan forgiveness to ease the financial burden experienced by our graduates and attract medical professionals to lend their expertise to the COVID-19 response. AACOM looks forward to working with you to advance S. 3828. For questions or additional information, please contact me at dbergman@aacom.org.

Sincerely,



David Bergman, JD
Vice President of Government Relations