

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Jon Tester  
United States Senate  
311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso  
United States Senate  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Tester and Barrasso,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for the *Rural Physician Workforce Production Act (S. 1893)*. As educators of future physicians, we support policies which aim to provide a solution to the physician workforce shortage, especially in rural areas.

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 37 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine— educating nearly 31,000 future physicians, 25 percent of all U.S. medical students—at 58 teaching locations in 33 U.S. states, as well as osteopathic graduate medical education professionals and trainees at U.S. medical centers, hospitals, clinics and health systems.

This bipartisan legislation is important to the OME community. Colleges of osteopathic medicine consistently achieve top rankings in primary care and rural and underserved practice categories. In fact, recent AACOM data show that 40 percent of graduating 2019-2020 osteopathic medical students plan to practice in a medically underserved or health shortage area; of those, 45 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. 1893. For questions or additional information, please contact me at [dbergman@aacom.org](mailto:dbergman@aacom.org)

Sincerely,



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