

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray and Chairman Pallone:

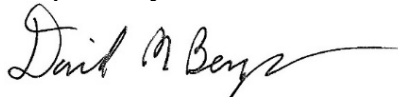
On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), thank you for your unwavering commitment and leadership in championing the Health Resources and Services Administration's Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program by introducing S. 1958/H.R. 3671, the *Doctors of Community (DOC) Act*. We offer our strong support of this legislation.

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.

The OME community strongly endorses this legislation to permanently authorize and expand the THCGME Program to support the training of primary care medical and dental residents in community-based settings. More than one-third of osteopathic medical school graduates choose careers in primary care, and colleges of osteopathic medicine consistently achieve top rankings in primary care and rural and underserved practice categories. Of the 769 primary care residents training in teaching health centers in academic year 2020-2021, over half are osteopathic residents.

On behalf of the OME community, thank you for your steadfast leadership. I look forward to continuing our work together to support a healthcare system that will enable future osteopathic physicians to provide primary care to patients in need. For questions or additional information, please contact me at dbergman@aacom.org.

Respectfully,



David Bergman, JD
Vice President, Government Relations