June 22, 2021

The Honorable Mark Kelly   The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate   United States Senate
516 Hart Senate Office Building   413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510   Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Kelly and Collins,

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for *S.2114, the Student Assisted Vaccination Effort (SAVE) Act.* As educators of future physicians, we seek opportunities for health professions students to support the US healthcare system and address future public health emergencies.

For more than a year, AACOM spearheaded [Students Assist America](), an interprofessional group of 12 associations, which led the effort to amend the *Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act* to allow health professions students to administer COVID-19 vaccines. However, that authorization ends when the current COVID-19 declaration is lifted. AACOM lauds your efforts to build on this success to ensure health professions students are mobilized and able to lend a hand at the outset of a public health 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 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.

Thank you for your commitment to the future health professions workforce. We look forward to working with you to advance the *SAVE Act*. For questions or additional information, please contact me at [dbergman@aacom.org]().

Sincerely,

David Bergman
Vice President of Government Relations