

June 26, 2020

The Honorable Gwen Moore
U.S. House of Representatives
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Representatives Moore and Cole:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for the *Indian Health Service Health Professions Tax Fairness Act* (H.R. 6448). Thank you for your commitment and leadership in introducing this important legislation, which would make Indian Health Service (IHS) loan repayments and scholarships tax-free, saving the agency over \$9.1 million and funding an additional 190 awards without increasing the Service's annual appropriation.

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 36 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine—educating nearly 31,000 future physicians, 25 percent of all U.S. medical students—at 57 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.

As educators of future physicians, we support federal health care workforce policies, such as the *Indian Health Service Health Professions Tax Fairness Act*, which recruit and retain physicians and other health care professionals in medically underserved areas. As you know, this bill would amend the tax code to provide health care professionals who receive student loan repayments and scholarships from the IHS the same tax-free status enjoyed by those who receive National Health Service Corps (NHSC) loan repayments. Under the IHS and NHSC programs, health care professionals provide needed care and services to underserved populations.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support for the *Indian Health Service Health Professions Tax Fairness Act*, and I thank you for your steadfast leadership and dedication in supporting a program that will enable future physicians to provide health care to patients in our nation's rural and medical underserved communities.

Respectfully,



Robert A. Cain, DO, FACOI, FAODME
President and CEO

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