

May 31, 2022

The Honorable Jacky Rosen  
United States Senate  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boozman  
United States Senate  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Rosen and Boozman:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for S. 4234, the *Physicians for Underserved Areas Act of 2022*. As educators of future physicians, we endorse policies that provide solutions to address physician workforce shortages in underserved 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 38 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine — educating nearly 34,000 future physicians, 25 percent of all U.S. medical students—at 60 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.

We applaud your effort to introduce legislation that would prioritize underserved areas when reallocating medical residency slots following a hospital closure. The OME community has a proven history of addressing unmet healthcare needs, including in rural and underserved areas and primary care. Physician distribution is influenced by training location, and 58 percent of osteopathic medical schools are located in health professional shortage areas. In fact, recent AACOM data show that 41 percent of graduating 2020-2021 osteopathic medical students plan to practice in a medically underserved or health shortage area; of those, 49 percent plan to practice in a rural community. Furthermore, more than half of osteopathic physicians practice in primary care, strengthening the backbone of our nation's healthcare system.

Thank you for your commitment to the future physician workforce. AACOM looks forward to working with you to advance S. 4234. For questions or additional information, please contact me at [dbergman@aacom.org](mailto:dbergman@aacom.org).

Sincerely,



David Bergman, JD  
Vice President of Government Relations

7700 Old Georgetown Road  
Suite 250  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
P 401.968.4100  
[www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org)