

January 14, 2016
The Honorable John Sarbanes
U.S. House of Representatives
2444 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sarbanes:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer our support of H.R. 4234, the *Primary Care Physician Reentry Act of 2015*. Thank you for your strong leadership in reintroducing this important legislation, which will help to address the current and projected physician workforce shortages occurring across the country.

AACOM represents the 31 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 45 teaching locations in 30 states. In the 2015-2016 academic year, these colleges educated over 26,100 future physicians – more than 25 percent of new U.S. medical students.

As educators of future physicians, we support legislation, such as the *Primary Care Physician Reentry Act of 2015*, which takes a positive step toward ensuring an adequately-trained physician workforce to meet the needs of American patients. This is particularly important now that the number of osteopathic medical school graduates is growing and is projected to grow in response to existing and projected physician workforce shortages. Large numbers of osteopathic medical school graduates pursue careers in primary care and practice in rural and or underserved areas where the primary care shortages are most acute.

On behalf of AACOM, I thank you again for your strong leadership in reintroducing the *Primary Care Physician Reentry Act of 2015*. We thank you for supporting policies that aim to strengthen the physician workforce and enhance patient care. I look forward to working together on this important matter.

Respectfully,



Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH
President and CEO