

February 24, 2017

The Honorable Elise Stefanik
United States House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stefanik:

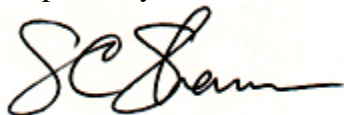
On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for H.R. 284, the *Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act of 2017*. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this critical legislation, which seeks to help alleviate the nation's physician workforce shortage.

AACOM represents the 33 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 48 teaching locations in 31 states. Six of the colleges are publicly controlled, 27 are private institutions. In the 2015-16 academic year, colleges are educating nearly 26,000 future physicians—more than 20 percent of U.S. medical students.

As educators of future osteopathic physicians, we strongly support policies, including the *Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act of 2017*, that provide long-term solutions to the physician workforce shortage. This legislation would provide a technical fix to a dated Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services rule, so that community hospitals are not penalized for hosting medical resident “rotators” for short durations. Residents who graduated from newly established medical schools would then continue their training in nearby hospitals and ultimately practice in the communities where they train.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support for the *Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act of 2017*, and I thank you for your leadership on working toward a health care system that will enable future osteopathic physicians to provide the care necessary to the patients they serve.

Respectfully,



Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH
President and CEO