



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 3, 2016

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Johnson
United States Senate
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Nelson, Johnson, Portman, Baldwin and Brown:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for S. 2671, the *Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act*. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this bipartisan legislation, which seeks to help alleviate the nation's physician workforce shortage.

AACOM represents the administrations, faculty, and students of the nation's osteopathic medical colleges and schools which offer the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree. There are 31 colleges of osteopathic medicine offering instruction at 46 locations in 31 states. In the 2015 – 2016 academic year, these colleges are educating over 26,100 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*, which provide a long-term solution to address the physician workforce shortage. This legislation is timely, as it would provide a technical fix to a dated Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rule, allowing residents from newly-established medical schools to continue their training in nearby hospitals, ultimately retaining these future physicians to practice in the communities they train in. With the growing need for primary care physicians, especially in rural and underserved areas

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across the nation, this legislation offers a much-needed solution for hospitals that have been prevented from offering medical residency programs in the past by this outdated CMS rule. Students at medical schools which have been opened within the last 20 years would no longer be forced to leave their community to continue their training.

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

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SC Shannon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH
President and CEO