



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 21, 2017

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
1319 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ruiz:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for H.R. 2574, the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in reintroducing this vital legislation, which seeks to address the nation's physician workforce shortage by expanding opportunities for future physicians training in primary care to meet the growing health care needs across this country.

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. In the 2016-2017 academic year, these colleges educated over 27,000 future physicians – more than 20 percent of U.S. medical students.

AACOM lauds your efforts in working to address this crisis in our nation's health care system. As educators of future physicians, we strongly support policies, including the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*, which would provide innovative and cost-effective solutions to support the need for a stronger primary care physician workforce. This legislation is timely and momentous, as it would bolster the primary care workforce by increasing opportunities for medical schools to support students engaging in initiatives, such as those in which primary care physicians take a leadership role in delivery system reform.

The *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act* will expand access to patient care and is crucial to those in rural and underserved areas, which already face a scarcity of primary care physicians. Furthermore, it will make additional improvements to the nation's health care system by setting sound policies such as taking significant steps to reduce administrative burdens on physicians while maintaining high-quality patient care.

Office of Government Relations
500 New Jersey Avenue NW
Suite 380
Washington, DC 20001-2005
www.aacom.org

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our strong support for the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*, and I thank you for your steadfast leadership and dedication to supporting a health care system that will enable current osteopathic medical students and future physicians to provide high quality care 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