



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 30, 2017

The Honorable Bill Nelson
U.S. Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Johnson
U.S. Senate
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
U.S. Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dean Heller
U.S. Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for S. 1291, the *Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act of 2017*. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in reintroducing this vital legislation, which seeks to 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. 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 *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 (CMS) rule, allowing residents from newly-established medical schools to continue their training in nearby hospitals and ultimately retaining these future physicians to practice in the communities where they train. S. 1291 offers a much-needed solution for hospitals that have been prevented from offering medical residency programs in the past by this outdated CMS rule, particularly in rural and underserved areas where primary care physicians are sorely needed.

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On behalf of AACOM, I offer our strong support for the *Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act of 2017*, 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