

January 15, 2020

The Honorable Jacky Rosen
United States Senate
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rosen:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for the *Improving Access to Health Care in Rural and Underserved Areas Act*. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in introducing this vital legislation, which seeks to alleviate the nation's physician shortage, particularly in rural and underserved communities across the country.

AACOM leads and advocates for the full continuum of osteopathic medical education (OME) to improve the health of the public. Founded in 1898 to support and assist the nation's osteopathic medical schools, AACOM represents all 36 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs)—educating nearly 31,000 future physicians, 25 percent of all U.S. medical students—at 57 teaching locations in 33 U.S. states, as well as osteopathic graduate medical education professionals and trainees at U.S. medical centers, hospitals, clinics, and health systems.

AACOM strongly lauds your efforts in working to address this crisis in our nation's health care system. As educators of future physicians, we support policies, including the *Improving Access to Health Care in Rural and Underserved Areas Act*, that aims to address the physician workforce shortages in rural and medically underserved areas where the shortage is dire and is expected to continue this trajectory without effective solutions. This innovative legislation would help address this matter by creating a program for Federally Qualified Health Centers to apply for their primary care physicians to participate in an enhanced continuing medical education training program with specialists.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support for the *Improving Access to Health Care in Rural and Underserved Areas Act*, and I thank you for your steadfast leadership in supporting a health care system that will enable current osteopathic medical students and future physicians to provide health care to the patients they serve in our nation's rural and medically underserved communities.

Respectfully,



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