



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Menendez and Booker:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for S. 2116, the *Supporting Graduate Medical Education at Community Hospitals Act of 2019*. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in reintroducing this vital legislation, which seeks to alleviate the nation's physician workforce shortage.

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 35 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine—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 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 *Supporting Graduate Medical Education at Community Hospitals Act of 2019*, 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. 2116 offers a much-needed solution for hospitals that have been prevented from offering medical residency programs by this outdated CMS rule, particularly in rural and underserved areas where primary care physicians are most needed.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our strong support for the *Supporting Graduate Medical Education at Community Hospitals Act of 2019*, and I thank you for your steadfast leadership and dedication to supporting a health care system that will enable future physicians to provide care to the most vulnerable patients across our country.

Respectfully,

Robert A. Cain, DO, FACOI, FAODME
President and CEO

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