

December 13, 2019

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Hassan and Collins:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer our support for S. 2892, the *Opioid Workforce Act of 2019*. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this critical legislation, which seeks to help combat the nation's opioid crisis by increasing the number of physicians treating patients with opioid addiction.

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 lauds your efforts in working to address this national crisis. As educators of future physicians, we strongly support policies, including the *Opioid Workforce Act of 2019*, that aim to ensure that the future physician workforce is comprehensively trained to provide high-quality health care to meet the needs of the nation's diverse patient populations, particularly those in rural and underserved areas. As such, this legislation would result in expanded access to patient care for those with substance use disorder and would ensure that additional residency positions are available for medical school graduates who are committed to working in addiction medicine and pain management.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support for the *Opioid Workforce Act of 2019*, and thank you for your leadership and dedication in supporting a health care system that will enable osteopathic medical students and future physicians to provide high quality care to those patients with substance use disorder and chronic pain.

Respectfully,



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