



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

February 8, 2019

The Honorable Cory Gardner  
United States Senate  
354 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester  
United States Senate  
311 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith  
United States Senate  
113 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Gardner, Tester, and Hyde-Smith:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for S. 289, the *Rural Physician Workforce Production Act of 2019*. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in reintroducing this vital legislation, which seeks to alleviate the nation's physician shortage, particularly in rural communities across the country.

AACOM represents the 35 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 55 teaching locations in 32 states. In the current academic year, these colleges are educating more than 30,000 future physicians – 25 percent of all U.S. medical students. AACOM was founded in 1898 to support and assist the nation's osteopathic medical schools, and to serve as a unifying voice for osteopathic medical education. The association leads and advocates for the osteopathic medical education community to improve the health of the public.

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 *Rural Physician Workforce Production Act of 2019*, that aims to address the physician workforce shortages in rural medically underserved areas where the shortage is dire and is expected to continue on this trajectory without effective solutions. This innovative legislation would help address this matter by expanding rural medical residency training programs by establishing comparable per resident payment for residents training in rural hospitals and eliminating rural hospital residency caps to encourage growth of rural training programs, particularly across various medical specialties.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support for the *Rural Physician Workforce Production Act of 2019*, and I thank you for your steadfast leadership in supporting a health care system that will

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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,

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