



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 10, 2014

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for the *Increasing Primary Care Access Act of 2014*. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in introducing this critical legislation, which seeks to address the nation's physician workforce shortage and expand opportunities for future physicians training in primary care to meet the growing health care needs across the country.

AACOM represents the 30 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 41 teaching locations in 28 states. In the 2013-14 academic year these colleges are educating over 23,000 future physicians – more than 20% of US medical students. Six of the colleges are publicly controlled, 24 are private institutions.

We support policies, such as the *Increasing Primary Care Access Act of 2014*, that work towards innovative solutions in order to sufficiently address the nation's need for a stronger primary care physician workforce. This legislation aims to build a necessary primary care workforce by increasing opportunities for medical schools to incentivize and support students to practice primary care in rural and underserved areas, ultimately expanding access to patient care in these areas that already face a scarcity of primary care physicians. The contributions of the nation's osteopathic medical schools in educating the next generation of physicians is instrumental in helping to address the physician workforce shortage, and innovative policy solutions such as the *Increasing Primary Care Access Act of 2014* are absolutely crucial to this training.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support of the *Increasing Primary Care Access Act of 2014*, and thank you for your leadership in supporting a health care system that will enable current osteopathic medical students and future osteopathic physicians to provide primary care to the patients they serve. We look forward to working together as this process continues.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SC Shannon", written in a cursive style.

Stephen C. Shannon, D.O., M.P.H.
President and CEO

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