



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 23, 2014

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
1319 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ruiz:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for H.R. 5458, the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*. 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 this country.

AACOM represents the 30 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 42 teaching locations in 28 states. In the 2013-14 academic year, these colleges educated over 23,000 future physicians – more than 20 percent of U.S. medical students. Six of the colleges are publicly controlled; 24 are private institutions.

As educators of future osteopathic physicians, we strongly support policies, including the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*, that work toward an innovative and cost-effective solution in order to sufficiently address the nation's need for a stronger primary care physician workforce. Additionally, this legislation aims to bolster the primary care workforce by increasing opportunities for medical schools to support students engaging in initiatives, such as those in which primary care physicians take a leadership role in delivery system reform.

The *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act* will expand access to patient care and is crucial to those in rural and underserved areas, which already face a scarcity of primary care physicians. Furthermore, it will make additional improvements to the nation's health care system by setting sound policies such as taking significant steps to reduce administrative burdens on physicians while maintaining high-quality patient care.

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On behalf of AACOM, I offer our strong support of the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*. I would like to thank you for your steadfast leadership and commitment in supporting a health care system that will enable current osteopathic medical students and future osteopathic physicians to provide high quality care to the patients they serve. I look forward to our continued work together in supporting a robust primary care workforce.

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, D.O., M.P.H.
President and CEO