



March 20, 2019

Dear Representative/Senator:

As the member organizations of the Federation of Associations of Schools of the Health Professions (FASHP), we are writing to congratulate and welcome you to the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

FASHP was created in 1968 as a forum for representatives of health professions education institutions to address education's role in organizational patterns of health care; to encourage effective collaboration among the professions in education and practice; to prepare health professions education for the future; and to serve as a liaison with other organizations sharing an interest in health professions education. FASHP is comprised of 16 associations representing the health professions education community that includes 4,786 programs, institutions, hospitals, and health systems, and more than 1.4 million students, faculty, clinicians, administrators, residents, and researchers.

FASHP looks forward to collaborating with you on policies that strengthen and promote the professional health care workforce and the vital role education plays in supplying the nation with highly-trained health care professionals. As Congress begins its work, our member organizations stand ready to work with you to promote policies that bolster the nation's health care workforce and ensure that Americans have access to high-quality health care services. Furthermore, we respectfully request that Congress supports interprofessional patient care, which has been shown to improve cost effectiveness, quality of care, and patient outcomes. In addition, we urge Congress to prioritize federal health professions education programs, including health professions training under Title VII of the *Public Health Service Act* (PHSA) and nursing workforce development programs under Title VIII of the PHSA.

Additionally, FASHP asks Congress to recognize the importance of financial aid to health professions students as you consider the reauthorization of the *Higher Education Act*. As the nation faces widespread health professions workforce shortages, our growing unmet need demands the training of a diverse health professions workforce to care for all populations, including those in underserved areas. As you know, a diverse, well-trained workforce is essential to answering the health care challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We invite you to utilize FASHP as a resource if you have any questions about health professions education and training. Additionally, if you are interested in connecting with health professions schools or programs in your state or district, FASHP members are available to assist you at any time. For additional information, please contact Judith Mun, Director of Government Relations, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, at [jmun@aacom.org](mailto:jmun@aacom.org) or (301) 580-0284.

We thank you for your time and look forward to working with you in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine  
American Dental Education Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychological Association  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
Association of Chiropractic Colleges  
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry  
Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Association of University Programs in Health Administration  
Council on Social Work Education  
Physician Assistant Education Association