

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Ron Kind
U.S. House of Representatives
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Gallagher
U.S. House of Representatives
1230 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Kind and Gallagher:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for H.R. 1358, the *Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act of 2019*. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in reintroducing this vital legislation, which seeks to alleviate the nation's physician workforce shortage.

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 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 lauds your efforts in working to address this crisis in our nation's health care system. As educators of future physicians, we strongly support policies, including the *Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act of 2019*, that provide long-term solutions to the physician workforce shortage. This legislation would provide a technical fix to a dated Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rule, allowing residents from newly-established medical schools to continue their training in nearby hospitals and ultimately retaining these future physicians to practice in the communities where they train. H.R. 1358 offers a much-needed solution for hospitals that have been prevented from offering medical residency programs by this outdated CMS rule, particularly in rural and underserved areas where primary care physicians are most needed.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our strong support for the *Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act of 2019*, and I thank you for your steadfast leadership and dedication to supporting a health care system that will enable future physicians to provide care to the most vulnerable patients across our country.

Respectfully,



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