



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 20, 2013

The Honorable Aaron Schock
U.S. House of Representatives
328 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Allyson Y. Schwartz
U.S. House of Representatives
1227 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Schock and Representative Schwartz:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), which represents the nation's colleges of osteopathic medicine and their osteopathic physicians in training, I offer strong support for the Training Tomorrow's Doctors Today Act. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in introducing this vital legislation, which seeks to address the nation's physician workforce shortage and expand Medicare-funded graduate medical education (GME) training positions in programs across the country.

AACOM represents the administrations, faculty, and students of the nation's osteopathic medical colleges and schools which offer the doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) degree. There are 29 colleges of osteopathic medicine at 37 locations in 28 states. Today, more than 20 percent of medical students in the United States are training to be osteopathic physicians.

AACOM vehemently lauds your efforts and commitment in working to address this grave crisis in our nation's health care system. As educators of future osteopathic physicians, we strongly support policies, including the Training Tomorrow's Doctors Today Act, which provides a comprehensive and cost-effective solution to addressing the physician workforce shortage. This legislation is timely and momentous as it would require hospitals to train at least 30 percent of their residents in primary care and general surgery, and give priority to hospitals in states with new medical schools and emphasize training in community-based settings.

As sequestration takes effect and GME funding is threatened by Medicare cuts, the Training Tomorrow's Doctors Today Act is critical to ensure that additional GME residency slots are made available for new medical school graduates to pursue their post-graduate training to become licensed practicing physicians. Moreover, in response to the current and growing physician workforce shortage that is projected to increase over the next five to 15 years, the number of osteopathic medical school graduates is growing and is expected to continue to rise. This legislation will result in expanded access to patient care and is of high importance to many rural and underserved areas, which already face shortages of primary care providers.

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On behalf of AACOM, I offer our ardent support for the Training Tomorrow's Doctors Today Act, and I thank you for your unwavering leadership and dedication on working to support 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.

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