



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 22, 2013

The Honorable Bill Nelson
U.S. Senate
716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson, Majority Leader Reid, and Senator Schumer:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2013. Thank you for your strong 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) residency positions in programs across the country.

AACOM represents the administrations, faculty, and students of the nation's osteopathic medical 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 lauds your efforts in working to address this serious crisis in our nation's health care system. As educators of future osteopathic physicians, we strongly support policies, including the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2013, which works to provide a cost-effective solution to the physician workforce shortage. This legislation is timely and momentous, as it would give priority to hospitals in states with new medical schools, emphasize training in community-based settings and. require the National Healthcare Workforce Commission to submit a report to identify shortage specialty residency programs.

As sequestration takes effect and GME funding is threatened by Medicare cuts, the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2013 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

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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.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support for the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2013, and I thank you for your steadfast 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