

May 14, 2019

The Honorable Jon Tester  
United States Senate  
311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Tester:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for S. 1240, the *Restoring Rural Residencies Act of 2019*. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in reintroducing this vital legislation, which would help alleviate the nation's physician workforce shortage, particularly in rural communities across the country.

The [American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine \(AACOM\)](#) leads and advocates for the full continuum of osteopathic medical education to improve the health of the public. Founded in 1898 to support and assist the nation's osteopathic medical schools, AACOM represents all 35 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine—educating nearly 31,000 future physicians, 25 percent of all U.S. medical students—at 55 teaching locations in 32 U.S. states, as well as osteopathic graduate medical education professionals and trainees at U.S. medical centers, hospitals, clinics, and health systems.

AACOM strongly lauds your efforts in working to address this crisis in our nation's health care system. As educators of future physicians, we support policies, including the *Restoring Rural Residencies Act of 2019*, that would improve access to health care in rural medically underserved areas where shortages are dire and are expected to continue on this trajectory without effective solutions. By allowing Medicare to reimburse medical residency programs for the time residents spend training at Critical Access Hospitals, this innovative legislation would spur the expansion of rural residency rotations, increase the number of physicians training in rural settings, and encourage more medical professionals to practice in rural communities.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support for the *Restoring Rural Residencies Act of 2019*, and I thank you for your steadfast leadership in supporting a health care system that will enable current osteopathic medical students and future physicians to provide health care to the patients they serve in our nation's rural and medically underserved communities.

Respectfully,



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President and CEO

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