

May 29, 2020

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Maloney:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for the *Student Loan Forgiveness for Frontline Health Workers Act* (H.R. 6720). Thank you for your commitment and leadership in introducing this important legislation, which would help alleviate the burden of student loan debt for frontline health care workers responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

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 36 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine—educating nearly 31,000 future physicians, 25 percent of all U.S. medical students—at 57 teaching locations in 33 U.S. states, as well as osteopathic graduate medical education professionals and trainees at U.S. medical centers, hospitals, clinics, and health systems.

AACOM lauds your recognition of the crucial role that health workers play in delivering vital services and care to communities across the country during this pandemic. These workers have made significant contributions to patient care, medical research, and testing, and our association applauds measures such as H.R. 6720 that propose to give back to those who are currently giving so much, risking their lives working on the frontlines.

Medical students graduate with disproportionately high debt, which, unlike other career paths, is frequently compounded by years of requisite post-graduate training. Consequently, medical student total loan repayment often exceeds two to three times the amount an individual initially borrows. As medical educators training the future physician workforce, we thank you for working to provide federal and private loan forgiveness, which would help ease the significant burden experienced by our graduates and other frontline health care workers, and help attract medical professionals to lend their expertise to the COVID-19 response.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our strong support for the *Student Loan Forgiveness for Frontline Health Workers Act*, and I thank you for your steadfast leadership and dedication in addressing such an urgent need during this critical time.

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Cain, DO". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Robert A. Cain, DO, FACOI, FAODME
President and CEO

CC: Reps. Steve Cohen, Ilhan Omar, Jahana Hayes, Marc Veasey, Jesús G. “Chuy” García,
Derek Kilmer, Juan Vargas, Eleanor Holmes Norton, and Yvette D. Clarke