

May 29, 2020

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Rubio, Cardin, Collins, and Shaheen:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for the *Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act* (S. 3833). Thank you for your commitment and leadership in introducing this important legislation, which would extend and increase flexibility for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP).

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 (COMs)—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.

As our nation continues to combat COVID-19 and address the devastating impacts of the pandemic on our country, the PPP provides small business employers with eight weeks of funds to pay their workers, protect their jobs, and help cover overhead expenses during the COVID-19 economic shutdowns. Extending the PPP to account for the longer-than-anticipated shutdowns and enhancing the flexibility of employers' use of PPP funds would provide critical financial support and allow small businesses to better protect health and safety as they work toward reopening. Like many of our country's businesses and industries, our nation's osteopathic medical schools and students are facing unprecedented challenges and disruptions as a result of COVID-19. The pandemic is creating stringent financial and personnel resource demands on COMs as they ensure the availability of a future physician workforce that is appropriately educated and trained to provide care both during and beyond this crisis. Therefore, AACOM supports S. 3833, which would allow small business employers to use PPP funds to purchase personal protective equipment for employees and cover adaptive investment costs needed to reopen safely.

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As medical educators training the future physician workforce, we thank you for working to ensure our nation's small businesses, including our COMs, are financially supported and assisted with enhancing the safety of their employees and the public as the response to this pandemic persists. On behalf of AACOM, I offer our strong support for the *Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act*, and I thank you for your steadfast leadership and dedication in addressing such an urgent need during this critical time.

Respectfully,

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

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