

May 3, 2019

The Honorable Brad Schneider  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1432 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Brooks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2211 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster  
U.S. House of Representatives  
320 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Elise Stefanik  
U.S. House of Representatives  
318 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schneider, Brooks, Kuster, and Stefanik:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer our support for H.R. 2439, the *Opioid Workforce Act of 2019*. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this critical legislation, which seeks to help combat the nation's opioid crisis by increasing the number of physicians treating patients with opioid addiction.

AACOM represents the 35 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 55 teaching locations in 32 states. In the current academic year, these colleges are educating more than 30,000 future physicians—25 percent of all U.S. medical students. Six of the colleges are public and 29 are private institutions. AACOM was founded in 1898 to support and assist the nation's osteopathic medical schools, and to serve as a unifying voice for osteopathic medical education. The association leads and advocates for the osteopathic medical education community to improve the health of the public.

AACOM lauds your efforts in working to address this national crisis. As educators of future physicians, we strongly support policies, including the *Opioid Workforce Act of 2019*, that aim to ensure that the future physician workforce is comprehensively trained to provide high-quality health care to meet the needs of the nation's diverse patient populations, particularly those in rural and underserved areas. As such, this legislation would result in expanded access to patient care for those with substance use disorder and would ensure that additional residency positions are available for medical school graduates who are committed to working in addiction medicine and pain management.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support for the *Opioid Workforce Act of 2019*, and thank you for your leadership and dedication in supporting a health care system that will enable osteopathic medical students and future physicians to provide high quality care to those patients with substance use disorder and chronic pain.

Respectfully,



Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH  
President and CEO

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