

June 21, 2013

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Reed and Blunt:

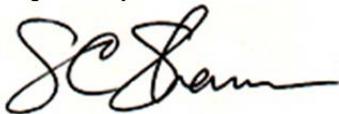
On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in introducing this critical legislation, which seeks to address the nation's physician workforce shortage and expand opportunities for future physicians training in primary care to meet the growing health care needs 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 21,000 students are enrolled at osteopathic medical schools, and more than 20 percent of new medical students in the United States are training to be osteopathic physicians.

As educators of future osteopathic physicians, we strongly support policies, including the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*, that work towards an innovative and cost-effective solution in order to sufficiently address the nation's need for a stronger primary care physician workforce. This legislation aims to build a necessary primary care workforce by increasing opportunities for medical schools to support students engaging in initiatives such as those in which primary care physicians take a leadership role in delivery system reform. This legislation will result in expanded access to patient care and is crucial to those in rural and underserved areas, which already face a scarcity of primary care physicians. Furthermore, it will make additional improvements to the nation's health care system by setting sound policies such as taking significant steps to reduce substantial administrative burdens on physicians while maintaining patient care.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our strong support of the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*, and I thank you for your steadfast leadership and commitment in supporting 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. I look forward to our continued work together in supporting a robust primary care workforce.

Respectfully,



Stephen C. Shannon, D.O., M.P.H.
President and CEO