

July 3, 2018

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
1319 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

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 dedication and leadership in introducing this vital legislation, which seeks to address the nation's physician workforce shortage by expanding opportunities for future physicians training in primary care to meet the growing health care needs across this country.

AACOM represents the 34 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 51 teaching locations in 32 states. In the current academic year, these colleges are educating nearly 29,000 future physicians – more than 20 percent of all U.S. medical students. Six of the colleges are public and 28 are private institutions.

AACOM lauds your efforts in working to address this crisis in our nation's health care system. As educators of future physicians, we strongly support policies, including the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*, which would provide innovative and cost-effective solutions to support the need for a stronger primary care physician workforce. This legislation is important and timely, as it would strengthen the primary care workforce by increasing opportunities for medical schools to support students engaging in initiatives.

In particular, the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act* will expand patient access to care in rural and underserved areas, which already face a scarcity of primary care physicians. Additionally, it will make further improvements to the nation's health care system by setting robust policies such as significant steps to reduce administrative burdens on physicians while maintaining high-quality patient care.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our strong support for the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*, and I thank you for your steadfast leadership and commitment to supporting a health care system that will enable current osteopathic medical students and future physicians to provide high quality care to the patients they serve.

Respectfully,



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