

August 7, 2020

The Honorable Raul Ruiz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ruiz:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for H.R. 7470, the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*. Thank you for your dedication and leadership in reintroducing this important legislation, which seeks to improve access to health care in medically underserved communities and cultivate primary care mentors and student leaders.

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 37 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs)—educating nearly 31,000 future physicians, 25 percent of all U.S. medical students—at 58 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 efforts in working to address our nation's physician shortage, particularly in rural and underserved areas. 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 foster a stronger and more robust health care workforce, and we appreciate the bill's emphasis on primary care support. Osteopathic medical schools strongly emphasize the importance of primary care practice, and 44% of the total seniors from our COMs who submitted a rank order list this past matching cycle matched to the primary care specialties, excluding OB/GYN<sup>1</sup>.

This legislation is important and timely. The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the United States' dire need of more physicians, particularly in rural and underserved areas where the scarcity of primary care access has been and is becoming even more pronounced. Expanding patient access to care will be vital not only to treat a growing and aging population, but also to respond to current and future public health emergencies.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://mk0nrmp3oyqui6wqfm.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MM\\_Results\\_and-Data\\_2020-1.pdf](https://mk0nrmp3oyqui6wqfm.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MM_Results_and-Data_2020-1.pdf)

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support for the *Building a Health Care Workforce for the Future Act*, and I thank you for steadfastly championing a health care system that will enable current osteopathic medical students and future physicians to provide high-quality patient care.

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