

September 5, 2019

The Honorable Tim Ryan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1126 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Ryan and Grijalva:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for H.R. 1888, the *Expansion of Nutrition's Role in Curricula and Healthcare (ENRICH) Act*. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in reintroducing this vital legislation, which aims to improve the prevention of cardiovascular and chronic diseases through the creation of a grant program to enhance nutrition and physical activity curricula for future physicians.

AACOM leads and advocates for the full continuum of osteopathic medical education (OME) to improve the health of the public. Founded in 1898 to support and assist the nation's osteopathic medical schools, AACOM represents all 35 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine—educating nearly 31,000 future physicians, 25 percent of all U.S. medical students—at 56 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.

Prevention education is a mainstay of primary care and is paramount to osteopathic physicians; in the 2017-2018 academic year, 32 percent of graduates reported plans to specialize in primary care. With DOs projected to represent more than 20 percent of all practicing physicians by 2030, it is critical to support policies such as the *ENRICH Act*, which would enable U.S. medical schools to establish or expand nutrition curricula to highlight the role that nutrition and diet play in the prevention and management of obesity and cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support of this legislation and I thank you for your sustained leadership and dedication to nutrition education.

Respectfully,



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

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