

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Jacky Rosen
United States Senate
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Rosen and Rubio:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for S. 176, the *Ensuring Understanding of COVID-19 to Protect Public Health Act*. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in reintroducing this vital legislation, which would direct the Director of the National Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to conduct a nationwide, longitudinal study on COVID-19's full impact.

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.

As Congress and the rest of the nation continue to combat COVID-19 and address the devastating impacts of the pandemic on our country, AACOM supports measures such as S. 176, which would expand our evidence-based understanding of the short- and long-term impacts of COVID-19 across diverse patient populations. The outcomes of this study will be vital to robustly equip our nation's health care system to mitigate and combat future pandemics and other public health crises.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support for the *Ensuring Understanding of COVID-19 to Protect Public Health Act*, and I thank you for your steadfast leadership in addressing such an urgent need during these critical times.

Sincerely,



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