

August 28, 2015

The Honorable Joseph Heck
U.S. House of Representatives
132 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Representatives Heck and Ruiz:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for H.R. 2927, a bill that would authorize Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs) receiving grants under part A of Title V of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to use such grant amounts to assist students in entering medical schools. Thank you for your commitment and leadership in introducing this bipartisan legislation.

AACOM represents the 31 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 44 teaching locations in 29 states. In the 2014-2015 academic year, these colleges educated over 24,600 future physicians – more than 25 percent of new U.S. medical students.

Given the numerous challenges currently facing the U.S. health care system, such as a rapidly changing and diverse patient population and a physician workforce shortage that is projected to worsen over the coming years, it is crucial that steps be taken support and bolster the next generation of physicians in order to care for America's ever-growing patient population. This legislation would leverage and provide flexibility for existing grant money which the HSIs already receive to develop and support programs designed to facilitate successful student advancement from four-year schools or community colleges to medical school.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support of H.R. 2927, and I thank you for your commitment to working to ensure underrepresented students have the resources and support they need in order to successfully apply to medical school.

I look forward to working together on this important matter.

Respectfully,



Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH
President and CEO