FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2017

Contact:

Paul DeMiglio  
Senior Media Specialist  
240-479-2469  
pdemiglio@aacom.org

Mary-Lynn Bender  
Director of Congressional Affairs  
202-844-4220  
mlbender@aacom.org

AACOM’s Statement on Immigration Executive Order

(Washington, DC)—The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) is strongly committed to ensuring a robust and diverse health care workforce to serve patients in communities across the country. Therefore, we express serious concerns with the Trump Administration’s recent Executive Order (EO), “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States,” issued on January 27. This could obstruct the educational pathway for students and residents to study and train in the United States and abroad, negatively impact both faculty and research activity at our schools, and have a lasting and disruptive impact on the nation’s medical education system, physician workforce, and larger health care system.

AACOM stands steadfast in its support for current and future osteopathic medical students and our schools that educate the next generation of physicians.

Our schools train a diverse, international student population, reflective of the communities they will care for as physicians. We cannot afford to turn away talented and dedicated prospective and current medical students and residents, nor diminish our ability to attract future physicians. AACOM believes a diverse workforce will address our nation’s physician workforce shortage and will only benefit our health care system and the patients it serves.

While this EO is currently being argued in courts across the country, we call on the Administration to immediately provide further clarity and guidance on the implementation of this Order. The osteopathic medical education community must receive assurances from the Trump Administration that this action will not impair the training of future physicians and the patient care they provide.

About AACOM

The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) represents the 33 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 48 teaching locations in 31 states. In the 2015-16 academic year these colleges are educating nearly 26,000 future physicians—more than 20 percent of all U.S. medical students. Six of the colleges are public and 27 are private institutions.

AACOM was founded in 1898 to support and assist the nation’s osteopathic medical schools, and to serve as a unifying voice for osteopathic medical education. AACOM provides leadership for the osteopathic medical education community by promoting excellence in medical education, research and service, and by fostering innovation and quality across the continuum of osteopathic medical education to improve the health of the American public.

###