

May 15, 2020

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
United States House of Representatives
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Burgess
United States House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Diana DeGette
United States House of Representatives
2111 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
United States House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representatives Eshoo, Burgess, DeGette, and Guthrie:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer support for the *Ensuring Understanding of COVID-19 to Protect Public Health Act* (H.R. 6701). Thank you for your commitment and leadership in introducing this important 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 36 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine—educating nearly 31,000 future physicians, 25 percent of all U.S. medical students—at 57 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. 3595, 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.

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Cain, DO". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light gray rectangular box.

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

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