



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

June 15, 2018

The Honorable Bill Nelson
U.S. Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dean Heller
U.S. Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Nelson and Heller:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer our support for S. 2843, the *Opioid Workforce Act of 2018*. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this critical legislation, which seeks to help combat the nation's opioid crisis by increasing the number of physicians treating patients with opioid addiction.

AACOM represents the 34 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 51 teaching locations in 32 states. Six of the colleges are public and 28 are private institutions. In the current academic year, these colleges are educating nearly 29,000 – more than 20 percent of all U.S. medical students.

AACOM lauds your efforts in working to address this national crisis. As educators of future physicians, we strongly support policies, including the *Opioid Workforce Act of 2018*, that aim to ensure that the future physician workforce is comprehensively trained to provide high-quality health care to meet the needs of the nation's diverse patient populations, particularly those in rural and underserved areas. As such, this legislation would result in expanded access to patient care for those with substance use disorder and would ensure that additional residency positions are available for medicals school graduates who are committed to working in addiction medicine and pain management.

On behalf of AACOM, I offer our support for the *Opioid Workforce Act of 2018*, and thank you for your leadership and dedication in supporting a health care system that will enable osteopathic medical students and future physicians to provide high quality care to those patients with substance use disorder and chronic pain.

Respectfully,

Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH
President and CEO

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