



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

1090 Vermont Ave, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20006-4949 ph (202) 414-0140 | (800) 962-9008 | www.osteopathic.org

April 8, 2014

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the more than 104,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students we represent, thank you for introducing the “Expanding Primary Care Access and Workforce Act”. This bill seeks to increase the primary care workforce in America by expanding training, scholarship, and loan repayment programs, as well as increasing payment for primary care physicians.

As you are aware, the current primary care workforce is insufficient to meet the health care needs of the U.S. population. Providing funding for key programs such as the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), Community Health Centers (CHCs), and Teaching Health Centers (THCs) will provide residents the opportunity to train and ultimately practice in a primary care specialty. Additionally, increasing payment for primary care physicians by extending the ten percent incentive payment program for primary care services and making Medicaid rates 100 percent equal to Medicare rates will encourage medical students to practice primary care.

To meet the national demand for additional GME residency training positions, we are pleased that this legislation increases the cap of residency slots, which would be targeted to primary care specialties.

Again, thank you for introducing this important legislation. The AOA and our members stand ready to assist you in securing its enactment into law.

Sincerely,

Norman Vinn, DO
President