

May 3, 2021

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Hassan and Collins:

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), I offer strong support for S. 1438, the *Opioid Workforce Act of 2021*. As educators of future physicians, we support policies which aim to address the physician workforce shortage and increase access to care for patients with substance use disorders.

AACOM leads and advocates for the full continuum of osteopathic medical education (OME) to improve the health of the public. Founded in 1898 to support and assist the nation's osteopathic medical schools, AACOM represents all 37 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine—educating nearly 31,000 future physicians, 25 percent of all U.S. medical students—at 58 teaching locations in 33 U.S. states, as well as osteopathic graduate medical education (GME) professionals and trainees at U.S. medical centers, hospitals, clinics, and health systems.

AACOM lauds your efforts in working to expand the physician workforce trained in substance use disorder recovery and prevention. The *Opioid Workforce Act of 2021* would create 1,000 new Medicare-supported residency positions over five years at hospitals that have, or are in the process of establishing, approved residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, or pain management. S. 1438 would result in increased access to patient care for those struggling with substance use disorders and ensure that additional residency positions are available for medical school graduates who are committed to working in addiction medicine and pain management.

On behalf of AACOM, thank you again for your steadfast leadership to support robust policies that help combat the substance use disorder crisis and enable osteopathic medical students and future physicians to provide high quality care to patients with substance use disorders.

Respectfully,



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