



Association of
American Medical Colleges
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April 8, 2024

The Honorable Roger Wicker
U.S. Senate
425 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Casey
U.S. Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ann Kuster
U.S. House of Representatives
2201 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Carol Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
465 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Wicker and Casey and Representatives Kuster and Miller:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to express our support for the Community Training, Education, and Access for Medical Students (TEAMS) Act (S. 3968/H.R. 7258), which aims to enhance community-based training opportunities for medical students, particularly in rural and medically underserved areas, thereby fostering long-term, sustainable physician practices in high-need communities.

The AAMC is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Our members are all 158 U.S. medical schools accredited by the [Liaison Committee on Medical Education](#); 13 accredited Canadian medical schools; approximately 400 academic health systems and teaching hospitals, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America's medical schools, academic health systems and teaching hospitals, and the millions of individuals across academic medicine, including more than 193,000 full-time faculty members, 96,000 medical students, 153,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences. In 2022, the Alliance of Academic Health Centers and the Alliance of Academic Health Centers International broadened participation in the AAMC by U.S. and international academic health centers.

The Community TEAMS Act would expand the presence of medical school clinical rotations in rural and underserved regions. By offering clinical training in community-based settings, medical students would gain firsthand experience with the specific health care challenges faced by underserved populations, equipping them to effectively care for these communities as future physicians. This legislation would establish a new grant program under the Health Resources and

Services Administration (HRSA) to enable medical schools to collaborate with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs), or other health care facilities within medically underserved areas in order to provide clinical learning opportunities.

The AAMC supports the innovative approach that the Community TEAMS Act proposes to cultivate a dedicated health care workforce where it is deeply needed. By increasing medical school clinical rotations in rural and underserved areas, the Community TEAMS Act promises to strengthen the physician workforce pathway. The U.S. is facing a projected shortage of up to 86,000 physicians by 2036, and this legislation could help alleviate this shortage by fostering a health care workforce that is more representative of and integrated with rural and underserved communities, and that connects patients with the care they need.¹

Thank you for introducing this important legislation. The AAMC looks forward to working with you to improve access to care for rural and other underserved communities and increase rural and community-based clinical rotation opportunities. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to my colleague, Andrea Price-Carter, Director of Health Equity Advocacy and Government Relations (apricecarter@aamc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle P. Turnipseed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle Turnipseed, JD, MHSA, MPP
Chief Public Policy Officer
Association of American Medical Colleges

CC: David J. Skorton, MD
President and CEO
Association of American Medical Colleges

¹ [The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections from 2021 to 2036.](https://www.aamc.org/media/75236/download?attachment)
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