

July 22, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Senator Jon Tester
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator John Barrasso
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Tester and Barrasso:

On behalf of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP), I write to express our support for S. 1893, the *Rural Physician Workforce Production Act of 2021*, which would expand the rural physician workforce by strengthening rural residency training programs. This legislation is critically important and well-timed as our country faces a physician workforce shortage, especially in primary care.

ACOFP is the professional organization representing more than 18,000 practicing osteopathic family physicians, residents and students throughout the United States who are deeply committed to delivering high-quality primary care services in communities across the country. One of ACOFP's policy priorities is addressing the shrinking health care workforce, particularly for primary care physicians. The United States could see an estimated shortage of between 18,000 and 48,000 primary care physicians by 2034.¹ We believe that Congress must take steps now to grow the primary care physician workforce, especially in rural areas.

S. 1893 would help address this situation with solutions such as establishing a Medicare graduate medical education (GME) methodology for hospitals training rural residents, enabling hospitals such as critical access hospitals and sole community hospitals to receive Medicare GME funding under this new methodology and allowing for the growth of rural resident training without regard to resident caps set under the Medicare program. This legislation is an important step toward strengthening the rural physician workforce especially since residents tend to practice where they train.²

Thank you for your work on this important issue, and we look forward to working with you in advancing this legislation. Should you need any additional information or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact ACOFP at advocacy@acofp.org or (847) 952-5100.

Sincerely,



Nicole Bixler, DO, MBA, FACOFP
ACOFP President

¹Association of American Medical Colleges. *The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand: Projections From 2019 to 2034*. June 2021. Available at <https://www.aamc.org/media/54681/download>

² See generally, Amelia Goodfellow, et. Al., *Predictors of Primary Care Physician Practice Location in Underserved Urban and Rural Areas in the United States: A Systematic Literature Review*. September 2016. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5007145/>