



American College of Osteopathic Internists • Stay True to Why You Pursued Medicine

March 30, 2026

The Honorable John Curtis  
U.S. Senate  
502 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Angus King  
U.S. Senate  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Curtis and King,

The American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI), representing the nation's osteopathic internists, medical subspecialists, fellows, residents, and students offers its endorsement of the *Community Training, Education, and Access for Medical Students Act* (S. 3989).

Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs) represent a growing segment of the physician community. According to the American Osteopathic Association, in 2025, the total number of osteopathic physicians in the United States reached over 167,000 — a 70 percent increase over the past decade — representing 11 percent of the physician workforce and growing. Today, 28 percent of all U.S. medical students are pursuing osteopathic medicine. The majority (57 percent) of DOs practice in primary care fields.

About 60 percent of U.S. colleges of osteopathic medicine are in a federally designated health professional shortage area and 64 percent require clinical rotations in rural and underserved communities, but those valuable training opportunities can be difficult to secure. Your bill will expand clinical training for medical students in rural and underserved communities, which will serve to strengthen the pipeline of osteopathic medicine physicians who want to practice in these settings, thereby improving patient access to medical care.

Increasing the range of available health services to people living in rural areas, including through the grants established by S. 3989, relies on federal funding for Rural Health programs administered through the Health Resources and Services Administration. It is imperative that Congress finalize the FY2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill and increase funding for Rural Health programs.

ACOI looks forward to working with you toward passage of S. 3989. Should you require additional information or want to be connected with osteopathic physician experts on this or other health policy issues, please contact Tim McNichol, ACOI Deputy Executive Director, at [tmcnichol@acoi.org](mailto:tmcnichol@acoi.org) or (301) 231-8877.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Baker', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Damon L. Baker, DO, MACOI  
President, American College of Osteopathic Internists