



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

October 21, 2025

The Honorable Steve Daines
U.S. Senate
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senators Daines, Heinrich, and King:

The American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI), representing the nation's osteopathic internists, medical subspecialists, Fellows, residents, and students is pleased to offer its support of the *Fair Access in Residency (FAIR) Act (S. 2715)*.

Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs) represent a growing segment of the physician community. According to the American Osteopathic Association, in 2024, the total number of osteopathic physicians in the United States reached almost 157,000 — 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.

Strengthening the physician pipeline requires an equal path to residency for DOs and MDs and is why ACOI supports S. 2715. To be licensed as an osteopathic physician, osteopathic medical students are required to pass the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensure Exam (COMLEX-USA) Level 1 and Level 2 exams. Students have also historically had the option to take the U.S. Medical Licensure Examination (USMLE). However, today, more than half of Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs that consider DOs require the USMLE. As a result, DOs incur significant financial costs and time to take all steps of the USMLE on top of the COMLEX-USA. There should be equality in GME for DOs and MDs, including equal acceptance of the COMLEX-USA and USMLE at all U.S. residency programs.

While ACOI believes S. 2715 constitutes a reasonable approach to ensuring osteopathic medical students can fairly compete for federally supported residency training positions, just the introduction of the legislation serves as a catalyst to support awareness and to encourage residency programs to voluntarily utilize the COMLEX exam as equivalent to USMLE.



ACOI applauds you for your strong leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you to ensure your congressional colleagues understand how S. 2715 will ensure the training of future physicians at our country's universities and academic centers remains open to both DOs and MDs alike.

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 or (301) 231-8877.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DLB', written in a cursive style.

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