



August 14 2024

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
U.S. House of Representatives
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
U.S. House of Representatives
266 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives McMorris Rodgers and Aderholt

On behalf of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in response to your proposed framework for reforming the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

As you consider structural and policy changes to the NIH, we encourage you to consider the following recommendations:



underserved populations and prepares them to continue serving those communities after graduation. COMs prioritize training future physicians to serve disadvantaged populations in community hospitals, health centers, physician offices and other local facilities. In fact, 56 percent of COMs are located in HPSAs, 64 percent require their students to go on clinical rotations in rural and underserved areas, and 88 percent have a public commitment to rural health. Medical students who train in underserved areas are almost three-times more likely to practice in underserved areas and four-times more likely to practice primary care in those areas compared to students that do not train in those locations. Training in these areas directly contributes to a state's healthcare workforce as AACOM data show that 86 percent of DOs who attend a COM and complete their residency in a given state stay to practice in that state.

