

March 6, 2018

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express strong support for the ongoing efforts toward a unified graduate medical education (GME) accreditation system, and to strongly oppose any legislative attempt to undo the success of this system. Uniform standards for high-quality physician education and training have been created for allopathic (MD) and osteopathic (DO) programs. Legislation requiring more than one accreditor, such as HR 2373, along with any other action to delay or undo this system, will undermine the joint efforts by our organizations and would be detrimental to the nation's health care system, medical students, residents, and the patients they serve.

An agreement in 2014 among the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) established a five-year transition plan to create a single GME accreditation system by 2020. This collaborative effort is the result of years of discussion and study, and has been Board-approved by our organizations.

The undersigned organizations are firmly committed to this unified accreditation model, which will foster greater accountability to the American public, and provide the greatest opportunity for optimizing GME resources, and maximizing opportunities for the residents and fellows of today and the future. We respectfully urge you to oppose any unwarranted legislative attempts that would undermine the successful efforts by the medical community and professional training organizations to create a unified accreditation system for GME, which ensures the US continues to lead the world in the quality of medical training and practice.

Sincerely,

American Board of Medical Specialties  
Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education  
American Hospital Association  
American Medical Association  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Council of Medical Specialty Societies  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

