

SUBJECT: Saving Community-Based Residency Programs

SUBMITTED BY: Seth H. Carter, DO on behalf of the ACOFP Resident Council

REFERRED TO: 2018 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 17

- 1 WHEREAS, on February 26, 2014, the American Osteopathic Association, along with the
2 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the American
3 Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), has agreed to a Memorandum of
4 Understanding outlining a Single Accreditation System (SAS) for graduate medical
5 education (GME) programs in the United States¹; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the SAS has adopted the academic teaching hospital residency model advocated by the
7 ACGME, which allocates more federal and state funding to training non-primary care
8 physicians at large academic health centers and increases administrative, research, and
9 cost requirements for residency programs^{2,3}; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the SAS has neglected the community-based residency training model, which
11 encourages resident training in smaller community hospital settings, relies on physicians
12 who remain in full-time patient care for training resident physicians, and helps smaller
13 residency training programs to provide healthcare services in rural and underserved
14 areas⁴; and
- 15 WHEREAS, a 2015 analysis revealed that 63% of family medicine residency graduates stay within
16 100 miles of their residency training program, which leads to the conclusion that “state
17 and federal policy-makers should prioritize funding training in or near areas with poor
18 access to primary care services”⁵; and
- 19 WHEREAS, even with generous guidance and logistical support from the ACOFP and AOA, as of
20 December 2017, only 493 out of 1244 (39.6%) AOA residency programs have received
21 Initial or Continued ACGME Accreditation, and ACGME has stated, “Pre-accreditation does
22 not mean, or imply, that a program has been accredited by the ACGME,” leaving doubt as to
23 how many programs will actually achieve Initial or Continued Accreditation^{6,7}; and
- 24 WHEREAS, an October 2017 report from the Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies in Family
25 Medicine and Primary Care demonstrated that 20% of AOA-only family medicine residency
26 programs that have gained ACGME Pre-accreditation expressed little to no confidence in
27 their ability to receive Initial ACGME Accreditation, and 30.8% of AOA-only family
28 medicine residency programs that were planning to apply expressed little to no confidence
29 in their ability to receive Initial ACGME Accreditation⁸; and

30 WHEREAS, failure of osteopathic programs to transition to the new ACGME standards could result
31 in fewer licensed physicians being trained in primary care in healthcare shortage areas⁹;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, a 2016 report from iVantage Health Analytics expresses concern that 673 rural
34 hospitals are vulnerable to closure, further exacerbating access to needed medical care in
35 rural communities¹⁰; and

36 WHEREAS, on May 4, 2017, H.R. 2373 was introduced to the United States House of
37 Representatives to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Centers for
38 Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to certify at least two accrediting bodies for the
39 purpose of accrediting medical residency training programs in allopathic and osteopathic
40 medicine¹¹; and

41 WHEREAS, many stakeholders interested in preserving community-based residency programs
42 have expressed public and private interest in providing the funds necessary to develop an
43 accrediting agency that is devoted to the accreditation of community-based hospitals that
44 provide services to rural and underserved communities; and

45 WHEREAS, the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians is uniquely positioned to
46 provide the necessary leadership, organization, structure, administration, staffing, and
47 educational programing necessary to become an accrediting agency; now, therefore be it

48 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) encourage
49 legislative efforts in the United States Congress to amend title XVIII of the Social Security
50 Act to require Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to certify at least two
51 accrediting bodies for the purpose of accrediting medical residency training programs in
52 allopathic and osteopathic medicine and; be it further

53 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP Board of Governors collaborate with appropriate stakeholders
54 interested in preserving community-based residency programs in order to secure
55 adequate funding to undertake the process of becoming an accrediting agency without
56 impacting current ACOFP budgetary goals and objectives; and, be it further

57 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP become an accrediting agency to provide accreditation to community-
58 based hospitals with an emphasis on providing healthcare services to rural and
59 underserved areas, encouraging resident training in rural and underserved settings, and
60 decreasing the cost and administrative burdens that prohibit smaller community-based
61 hospitals from opening or continuing residency programs.

FINAL ACTION: REFERRED TO ACOFP RESIDENT COUNCIL as of MARCH 22, 2018

Explanatory Statement: The ACOFP works with multiple partner organizations to advance Graduate Medical Education; however, the resolution may limit the ACOFP's ability to further advocate for osteopathic family medicine under the Single Accreditation System. Also, the resolution has significant fiscal implications.

References:

- ¹ Single GME Accreditation System. (n.d.). Retrieved December 18, 2017, from <http://www.acgme.org/What-We-Do/Accreditation/Single-GME-Accreditation-System>
- ² Common Program Requirements. (n.d.). Retrieved December 18, 2017, from <http://www.acgme.org/What-We-Do/Accreditation/Common-Program-Requirements>
- ³ Longman, P. (2016, July 05). First Teach No Harm. Retrieved January 12, 2018, from <https://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/julyaugust-2013/first-teach-no-harm/>
- ⁴ The Physician Shortage Problem. (n.d.). Retrieved January 23, 2018, from <http://thesmartcoalition.com/the-problem/>
- ⁵ Fagan, E. B., Gibbons, C., Finnegan, S. C., Petterson, S., Peterson, L. E., Phillips, R. L., Jr., & Bazemore, A. W. (2015). Family Medicine Graduate Proximity to Their Site of Training: Policy Options for Improving the Distribution of Primary Care Access. *Family Medicine*, 42(2), 124-130.
- ⁶ The Single GME Accreditation System. (n.d.). Retrieved January 24, 2018, from <https://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/single-gme-accreditation-system/Pages/default.aspx>
- ⁷ Program Pre-Accreditation and Continued Pre-Accreditation. (n.d.). Retrieved January 24, 2018, from <http://www.acgme.org/What-We-Do/Accreditation/Single-GME-Accreditation-System/AOA-Programs/Pre-Accreditation-and-Continued-Pre-Accreditation>
- ⁸ Marcinek, J. P., Coffman, M., Levin, Z., Liaw, W., & Bazemore, A. (2017, October 01). *Barriers and Solutions to the Single Accreditation System: A Survey Study of AOA Family Medicine Residency Program Directors* (Rep.). Retrieved February 1, 2018, from Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies in Family Medicine and Primary Care website: <https://www.graham-center.org/content/dam/rgc/documents/publications-reports/reports/Barriers-Solutions-Single-Accreditation-System.pdf>
- ⁹ Novak, T. S. (2017, October 13). Vital Signs of U.S. Osteopathic Medical Residency Programs Pivoting to Single Accreditation Standards (Doctoral dissertation, University of South Florida, 2017). 1-144. Retrieved January 22, 2018.
- ¹⁰ Ellison, A. (n.d.). 673 rural hospitals vulnerable to closure: 5 things to know. Retrieved January 22, 2018, from <https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/673-rural-hospitals-vulnerable-to-closure-5-things-to-know.html>
- ¹¹ Kelly, M. (2017, May 4). H.R.2373 - 115th Congress (2017-2018): To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the accreditation of osteopathic residency training programs for purposes of graduate medical education payments under the Medicare program. Retrieved January 23, 2018, from <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2373?r=28>