



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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January 30, 2013

The Honorable Joseph Pitts
U.S. House of Representatives
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Pitts and Pallone:

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the more than 100,000 osteopathic physicians and medical students we represent, I am pleased to inform you of our support of “The Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education Support Reauthorization Act of 2013” (H.R. 297) – legislation that will extend funding for this important program for the next five years.

Our nation currently faces a physician workforce shortage. Experts predict that the country will face a shortage of 45,000 primary care physicians in addition to shortages in other medical specialties by 2020. Given the time it takes to educate and train a physician, we must begin to train a larger cadre of physicians now.

The elimination of funding for the Children’s Hospital Graduate Medical Education Program would only exacerbate this critical situation. Each year this program successfully trains over 5,000 resident physicians in these high need specialties. Your legislation will reauthorize this program for five years and further help to reduce the shortage of physicians practicing in primary and pediatric care specialties.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and for your commitment to the health of our nation’s children. The AOA and our members stand ready to assist you in securing its passage.

Sincerely,

Ray E. Stowers, DO
President