



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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May 1, 2017

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Durbin and Cassidy:

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students we represent, thank you for introducing the “Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act” (S. 850). This bipartisan legislation extends the current standards on student-body enrollment and pass rates for U.S.-based medical schools to all medical schools outside of the United States and Canada that receive federal funding.

Under current law, a small number of foreign medical schools are exempt from meeting one or both of the minimum requirements to receive federal funding under Title IV – to have at least 60 percent of their enrollment be non-U.S. citizens, and at least a 75 percent pass rate on the U.S. Medical Licensing Exam by their students. These schools tend to cost more in both tuition and in cost-of-living, leaving their students with an average medical school debt that is higher than students attending U.S. medical schools. The attrition rates for these schools have been known to reach 30 percent, and the residency match rate for graduates is almost half that of U.S. medical school graduates.

This bill will ensure that domestic and foreign medical schools are held to the same standards for the benefit of medical students and, will result in greater stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Again, thank you for introducing this important legislation. The AOA and our members stand ready to assist you in securing its enactment into law.

Sincerely,

Boyd R. Buser, DO,
President