



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION
TREATING OUR FAMILY AND YOURS



May 23, 2017

The Honorable Joseph Griffo
Deputy Senate Majority Whip
188 State Street
Room 612
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Senator Griffo:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the New York State Osteopathic Medical Society (NYSOMS) are writing in support of S 6385. This bill authorizes real property taxing jurisdictions to grant a tax exemption for property purchased by a physician in a physician shortage area, when the property is the physician's primary residence and the physician will practice in the shortage area. The AOA and NYSOMS support tax credits for physicians when the credit is tied to providing much needed care in underserved areas. S 6385 will help address current physician workforce shortages and work toward providing an adequate supply of physicians in underserved areas of New York in the future.

The AOA represents nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students, including over 6,000 in New York. The AOA promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs and is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org. NYSOMS is a professional medical organization that represents the interests of the more than 6,000 DOs in New York.

The osteopathic medical profession:

- **Has long emphasized the importance of providing care to patients in rural and underserved areas, with a disproportionate amount of DOs providing services in these areas compared to other professionals.**
- **Comprises 11% of all US physicians but is responsible for 16% of patient visits in communities with populations of fewer than 2,500.**¹
- **Represents 40% of all physicians who are located in medically underserved areas or who treat medically underserved populations.**²
- Is committed to providing health care in rural New York communities, as reflected by the two osteopathic medical schools located in the state: the **New York Institute of Technology**

¹ Osteopathic Medicine and Medical Education in Brief, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. Available at: <http://www.aacom.org/about/osteomed/Pages/default.aspx>.

² 2013 National Center for the Analysis of Healthcare Data (NCAHD)'s Enhanced State Licensure

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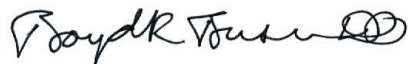
College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYTTCOM) in Old Westbury and the **Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine** (TouroCOM), which has campuses in Harlem and Middletown. Both of these colleges of osteopathic medicine train students who enter primary care specialties in rates well above the national average.

New York's current physician shortage:

- Currently, approximately **3.9 million New Yorkers live in one of the state's 93 designated "underserved" areas for primary care services.**³
- **While New York trains over 11% of the country's physicians, 62% of the doctors who graduate from a New York medical school move to another state after graduation.**⁴
- Additionally, **30% of New York's physicians are near retirement.**⁵

Providing a real property tax credit is an excellent incentive to attract physicians to provide patient care in underserved areas, and ultimately increase the number of physicians in the state. **The AOA and NYSOMS thank you for your leadership in introducing S 6385.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nicholas A. Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, State Government Affairs, at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773 ext. 8185; or Barbara Greenwald, NYSOMS Executive Director, at bgreenwa@nyit.edu or (516) 686-3958.

Sincerely,



Boyd R. Buser, DO
President, AOA



Patricia C. Hunt, DO
President, NYSOMS

CC: Mark A. Baker, DO, AOA President-elect
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Barbara Greenwald, Executive Director, NYSOMS

³ No author. "Program Overview and Background, Doctors Across New York (DANY), Physician Practice Support and Physician Loan Repayment Programs - Cycle IV." *New York State Department of Health*, no date. Available at: https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/doctors/graduate_medical_education/doctors_across_ny/background.htm.

⁴ Alexander, Paul. "Alexander: Physician Shortage is Real Crisis in New York State, Nation." *TimesUnion*, Apr. 4, 2015. Available at: <http://www.timesunion.com/tuplus-opinion/article/Alexander-Physician-shortage-is-real-crisis-in-6179218.php>.

⁵ Punke, Heather. "10 States With the Most Physicians 60 or Older." *Becker's Hospital Review*, Dec. 12, 2013. Available at: <http://www.beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-physician-relationships/10-states-with-the-most-physicians-60-or-older.html>.