



June 12, 2019

**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
655 K Street, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20001-2399  
T 202 828 0400  
aamc.org

The Honorable Bill Johnson  
United State Senate  
2336 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Tonko  
United State Senate  
2369 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Reps. Johnson and Tonko:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write in strong support of your amendment to fund regional centers of excellence in substance use disorder education within H.R. 2740 - Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Legislative Branch, Defense, State, Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2020.

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health care through innovative medical education, cutting-edge patient care, and groundbreaking medical research. Its members are all 154 accredited U.S. medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 80 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC serves the leaders of America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and their more than 173,000 full-time faculty members, 89,000 medical students, 129,000 resident physicians, and more than 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences.

With the opioid epidemic devastating communities nationwide, medical schools and teaching hospitals have been actively enhancing curricular content associated with both pain and addiction. Just last month, the AAMC and several partners convened a national workshop to advance medical education to combat opioid misuse, with participation from over 400 leaders from across the continuum of medical education. As part of this landmark event, attendees assessed opportunities to strengthen educational content in medical school, residency training, and continuing medical education, and developed a plan to meet this objective at their institutions.

Your amendment to fund the regional centers of excellence authorized in Section 7101 of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (P.L. 115-271) will play an instrumental role in helping to advance these goals nationwide. Through cooperative agreements with medical schools, teaching hospitals, and other health professions educational entities, this program will help awardees form interprofessional and regional partnerships to develop, evaluate, and

disseminate evidence-based resources that educators can use to advance medical education around substance use disorders.

We thank you again for your efforts to help support medical education as we work together to help reverse this public health crisis and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to ensure the program is funded in the final spending package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen D. Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'F'.

Karen Fisher, J.D.  
Chief Public Policy Officer