



December 13, 2019

The Honorable Andy Kim
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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Dear Representative Kim:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to thank you for your legislation, the “Solutions Not Stigmas Act of 2019,” which would allow medical schools and other health professions programs to access grant funding to enhance education around substance use disorders (SUD) and chronic pain.

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.; 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.

As communities across the country work to prevent substance use disorders and to improve access to treatment for addiction and pain, stigma and bias pose an ongoing barrier in connecting patients with the best care. The Solutions Not Stigmas Act of 2019 would provide resources for development of evidence-based curricula to improve patient-provider communication, enhance clinical training experiences for health professionals, and highlight the importance of addressing stigma and bias to improve patient care.

Through their missions of education, research, and clinical care, the nation’s medical schools and teaching hospitals are actively responding to this public health crisis and developing creative solutions to address SUD and chronic pain. With the help of this grant program, interdisciplinary groups of health care providers could learn from, and build on, existing curricular successes across the medical education continuum to improve training experiences for the next generation of providers and reduce negative outcomes associated with stigma.

Thank you again for your efforts. We look forward to working with you to continue this important work. If you have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me or Christa Wagner at chwagner@aamc.org or 202-828-0525.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Fisher".

Karen Fisher, JD
Chief Public Policy Officer

cc: Christa Wagner, PhD, Senior Legislative Analyst