



October 27, 2023

The Honorable Judy Chu, PhD
U.S. House of Representatives
2423 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
655 K Street, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20001-2399
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Dear Rep. Chu:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to thank you for reintroducing the Protecting Our Students by Terminating Graduate Rates that Add to Debt (POST GRAD) Act, which would make graduate and professional students eligible to receive Federal Direct Subsidized Loans again. The AAMC is pleased to support this legislation.

The AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Its members are all 158 U.S. medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education; 13 accredited Canadian medical schools; approximately 400 academic health systems and teaching hospitals, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America's medical schools, academic health systems and teaching hospitals, and the millions of individuals across academic medicine, including more than 193,000 full-time faculty members, 96,000 medical students, 153,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences. Following a 2022 merger, the Alliance of Academic Health Centers and the Alliance of Academic Health Centers International broadened participation in the AAMC by U.S. and international academic health centers.

Higher education costs can be a significant deterrent for individuals interested in health professions careers and can impact the health professions pathway for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Changes in federal policy have made attaining and completing a graduate degree more difficult for low-income first-generation students. Higher debt associated with health professions training is frequently compounded by years of post-graduate training, which can result in higher total student loan repayment.

We appreciate that your bill helps to address these challenges and makes the pathway to health professions careers more accessible to qualified students. The POST GRAD Act would lessen the financial barriers for future health providers and help grow the nation's health workforce.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to continuing to work with you as the legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle P. Turnipseed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" at the end.

Danielle Turnipseed, JD, MHSA, MPP
AAMC Chief Public Policy Officer

CC: David J. Skorton, MD, President and CEO