

August 12, 2024



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
655 K Street, N.W., Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20001-2399
T 202 828 0400 F 202 828 1125
www.aamc.org

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
U.S. Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write in support of your legislation the Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act of 2024 (S. 4744), which would amend Title IV of the student financial aid program to establish consistent eligibility requirements for graduate medical schools operating outside of the United States and Canada.

The AAMC 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.

Despite receiving special treatment under Title IV, several Caribbean medical schools are significantly less successful at ensuring student success and overburden students with student loan debt that can be about 53 percent higher compared to the median U.S. medical school debt. The AAMC believes that medical schools in the Caribbean should not receive special treatment under U.S. law that has allowed them to receive federal taxpayer dollars in the form of federal student aid. In spite of the problems cited, Caribbean-based medical schools are exempt from meeting one or both minimum requirements other foreign medical schools are required to meet to receive Title IV funding: (1) at least 60 percent of their enrollment must be non-U.S. citizens; and (2) their graduates must have at least a 75 percent pass rate on the U.S. Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE).

The Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act would eliminate the special treatment under the law that certain foreign medical schools receive by applying the 60 percent enrollment and 75 percent USMLE pass rate standards to all medical schools outside of the United States and Canada. This bill would support increased accountability and ensure students attending international medical schools meet consistent rigorous standards.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this critical issue. The AAMC looks forward to working with you to enact the Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act of 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle P. Turnipseed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

cc: David J. Skorton, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer