



November 22, 2019

The Honorable Tim Ryan  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I write to thank you for your legislation, H.R. 1888, the “Expanding Nutrition’s Role in Curricula and Healthcare (ENRICH) Act,” which will allow medical schools to access funding to enhance their education around the relationship of diet and exercise to chronic conditions such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease.

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 you know, diet and nutrition are complex issues influenced by a variety of outside forces, and while good nutrition is largely a societal issue, providers have a key role to help individuals maintain their health. Virtually all medical schools include nutrition education in required and elective courses, and many schools are exploring innovative ways to address the rising obesity epidemic as well as the health and economic burdens of other chronic diseases in the curriculum.

Since the first introduction of the ENRICH Act, medical and other health professional educators have developed innovative and interdisciplinary curricular resources for the prevention and treatment of chronic diseases impacted by diet and exercise. As an example, in 2017, the AAMC joined over 20 health organizations to develop the first-ever competencies for the prevention and treatment of obesity to improve education in training programs for over 10 health professions related to chronic disease management and prevention.

The ENRICH Act will allow institutions to learn from, and build on, these successes, and by encouraging collaboration with other health professions schools, will help the team of health care providers identify best practices needed to address and prevent nutrition-related conditions. Given the importance of this topic as part of a wide array of other pressing health challenges, we hope to work with you to ensure new funding for this program to avoid re-directing already scarce resources from other important educational priorities. We look forward to augmenting the important work already underway toward this goal.

Sincerely,

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

Karen Fisher, JD  
Chief Public Policy Officer