



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

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February 24, 2016

Senator Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Baldwin:

On behalf of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), which represents over 18,000 board-certified orthopaedic surgeons, I would like to express our support for S. 2014, the Next Generation Researchers Act. The bill will enable our young scientists to have access to improved research opportunities and earlier research independence.

Orthopaedic clinician scholars generate significant contributions to the field of orthopaedics. Unfortunately, due to a variety of factors at play in the healthcare environment, the number of clinician scientists has been on the decline in recent years. The decline in the numbers of both active clinician scientists and those entering this career path has long been of concern to the Academy. The AAOS sponsors an annual training workshop for residents and junior faculty who desire to become clinician scholars.

I am pleased the bill seeks to promote policies and programs for improving numerous initiatives for young researchers, as well as develop and accelerate policies which enhance training programs for research related career options. The bill strengthens mentorship programs and enhances diversity efforts, as well as helps new researchers obtain renewal funding. While the NIH budget has fallen short since 2003, many of our global competitors have ramped up their research capabilities and is unfortunately contributing to many of our young scientists deciding to pursue other fields or leaving the country for more robust opportunities. We applaud and support your efforts moving forward.

Please feel free to contact Julia Williams, Senior Manager, AAOS Office of Government Relations, at (202) 548-4149 or JWilliams@AAOS.org if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

David D. Teuscher, MD,
President
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Cc: Karen Hackett, CAE, AAOS Chief Executive Officer
William Shaffer, MD, AAOS Medical Director