

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

December 3, 2013

The Honorable Roger Kahn
Michigan State Senate Appropriations Committee Chair
S324 Capitol Building
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Chairman Kahn and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

Please accept this letter as evidence of my support for SB 648. Like MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon, I endorse this effort to expand the student aid grant cap for those pursuing health-related professions and modifying the eligibility requirements for those receiving financial aid.

As we look to the future, we see a looming shortage of healthcare workers on the national, state and local levels. The passage of the Affordable Care Act will add 1.5 million Michiganders to the health care system. At the same time, the state is looking at a shortage of 4,000 physicians and 18,000 nurses. Efforts like SB 648 that facilitate students' efforts to pursue meaningful careers in healthcare fields will help alleviate these shortages and should be pursued whenever possible.



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The Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine is working to educate and prepare 1,200 bright and talented students for careers in medicine; many as primary care providers in Michigan. SB 648 will be a big step in the right direction to support their endeavors, and I heartily applaud this bipartisan measure to make a difference for today's students and future health care professionals.

Please enter this letter into the Michigan Senate record for the Dec. 4, 2013 meeting of the Michigan State Senate Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,

William D. Strampel, D.O., FACOI
Dean