



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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## 2019 STATE PRIORITIES

### **SCOPE OF PRACTICE & NEW LICENSURE TYPES:**

Support legislation that promotes the physician-led, team-based model of health care delivery, which values each member of the patient care team while protecting patient safety through appropriate physician involvement. Support uniform, evidence-based licensure pathways for physicians, as well as non-physician clinicians, based upon scope of practice.

### **OSTEOPATHIC EQUIVALENCY AND RECOGNITION:**

Ensure that legislation appropriately recognizes osteopathic physicians, residents and students, as well as osteopathic examinations and board certifications, as equivalent to their allopathic counterparts. Educate legislators about currently accepted osteopathic terminology and the distinctive philosophy and practice of osteopathic medicine, including osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT). Support the licensure and regulation of osteopathic physicians by osteopathic medical boards in dual board states.

### **TRUTH IN ADVERTISING:**

Support legislation that requires all health care providers to affirmatively communicate their degrees and licensure type to patients. This helps to reduce patient confusion and protect patient safety by preventing fraud and deceptive practices, and enables patients to make informed decisions about who is providing their care. Support advertisements of physician board certification only if the board possesses legitimate training and testing requirements.

### **PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE:**

Support enactment of legislation that increases the physician workforce through increasing funding for graduate medical education and expanding financial incentives to attract physicians to rural and underserved areas/populations.

### **TELEMEDICINE:**

Support the delivery of appropriate health care services, including the prescription of controlled substances, through telemedicine and other communications-based technologies. Advocate for payment parity between these services and similar services delivered in-person.

### **PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE, ABUSE AND DIVERSION:**

Support a cautious, evidence-based approach to this issue that balances the need to curb prescription drug misuse while ensuring access to timely, appropriate health care for patients with legitimate pain care needs. Support legislation that promotes non-opioid alternatives for pain management, including OMT, and provides funding for research and treatment.

### **INSURANCE REGULATIONS AND ACCESS TO CARE:**

Support state insurance regulations that require insurers to maintain adequate in-person provider networks and improve network transparency. Support physicians' right to voluntarily contract with insurers and set their own out-of-network rates, which allows them to continue to provide care to patients. Support legislation to stabilize state health insurance exchanges.

### **INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT (COMPACT):**

Support enactment of the Compact, which provides a voluntary, expedited pathway to physician licensure in multiple states. The Compact also increases access to health care for patients in underserved or rural areas by allowing them to more easily connect with medical experts through the use of telemedicine and other communications-based technologies.