



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

1090 Vermont Ave, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20006-4949 | ph (202) 414-0140 | (800) 962-9008 | www.osteopathic.org

January 12, 2017

The Honorable Pat Roberts
United States Senate
109 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate
110 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Roberts and Heitkamp:

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students we represent, we thank you for introducing the “Restoring Access to Medication Act of 2017” (S. 85). This legislation would eliminate the restriction placed on the use of tax-preferred accounts to purchase over-the-counter (OTC) medications without a prescription. A requirement established under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The goal of the ACA was to expand access to affordable health care for all health care consumers. Instead, this provision that limits coverage of OTC medications actually increases costs to the health care system and places a new administrative burden on already over-burdened physicians, physician practices, and most importantly, the patients.

Many physicians encourage patients to use OTC products as a means of addressing their immediate health care needs and long-term health maintenance. OTC medicines provide patients an effective, affordable, convenient and accessible means to address their health care needs. Requiring patients to obtain a prescription from their physician in order to receive coverage through their tax-preferred account is burdensome and costly. Additionally, the products impacted by this policy have already been deemed safe and appropriate for direct sale to consumers by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), making the prescription requirement even more onerous and unnecessary.

Again, thank you for introducing this important legislation. The AOA and our members stand ready to assist you in securing its enactment into law.

Sincerely,

Boyd R. Buser, DO,
President