



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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

February 10, 2017

The Honorable Tom Price, MD
Secretary
Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC. 20201

Dear Secretary Price:

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students nationwide, congratulations on your confirmation as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We are pleased to see a fellow physician serve in this important role in order to help improve our nation's health care system and make it more responsive to the needs of physicians and our patients.

As you know, osteopathic physicians are trained in a patient-centered, whole-person approach to care that incorporates mind, body, and spirit, and also emphasizes the importance of prevention in improving health outcomes. As you fulfill this new role, we are encouraged by your awareness of the osteopathic profession and familiarity with how we address our patients' needs. Throughout your career, you have demonstrated a deep understanding of both the practice and policy of medicine. We believe that the skills you have exhibited during your tenure as a member of Congress and personal experience as a physician makes you well-prepared to carry on the important work of the agency. At a time when HHS is serving a critical role in addressing the ongoing and potential future changes to our nation's health care system, we firmly believe that you will ensure the perspective of the physician community is heard and reflected in the work of HHS.

The AOA has developed a strong relationship with HHS over the years. As the Administration and Congress focus attention on effective reforms of our health care system, we urge you to work toward improvements that enable physicians to practice medicine the way they were trained, and to reduce the administrative burdens that stand between physicians and our patients. The AOA and our members stand ready to provide assistance in the development of policies, guidelines, and educational materials that will advance our shared goals of improving patient care. We welcome the opportunity to partner with HHS to this end.

Again, congratulations on your confirmation. Please do not hesitate to call upon the AOA or our members for assistance.

Sincerely,

Boyd R. Buser, DO
President