February 23, 2016

The Honorable Terry Gerratana
Senate Chairwoman
Joint Committee on Public Health
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairwoman Gerratana:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society (COMS) are writing to request amendments to HB 5267. This bill makes technical corrections to the public health statutes, but incorrectly refers to the AOA as the “American Osteopathic Medical Association,” and fails to include COMS among the organizations offering approved continuing medical education (CME) courses. The AOA and COMS would like to request amendments to correct these inaccuracies.

The AOA represents more than 123,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs, is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools, and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org. COMS is a professional organization that represents over 600 DOs providing patient care in Connecticut.

The AOA and COMS request that the language of this bill be amended as follows:

Section 8. “(b) … qualifying continuing medical education activities include…courses offered or approved by the American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Medical Association, Connecticut Hospital Association, Connecticut State Medical Society, Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society, county…”

We appreciate your consideration of this request to amend HB 5267. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nick Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, State Government Affairs at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.
Sincerely,

John Becher, DO  
President, AOA

Gregory R. Czarnecki, DO  
President, COMS

CC:  Boyd R. Buser, DO, AOA President-elect  
Joseph Giaimo, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs  
Michael Murphy, DO, Chair, AOA Bureau of State Government Affairs  
Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, AOA Chief Executive Officer  
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Samyuktha Gumidyala, Affiliate Executive, COMS