



January 15, 2018

The Honorable MaryLynn Magar  
Florida State House of Representatives  
214 House Office Building  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative Magar:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) are writing to request an amendment to House Bill 1099.** This bill relates to advanced birth centers. It currently recognizes allopathic physicians (MDs) who are board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, but fails to recognize osteopathic physicians (DOs) who are board certified by the equivalent osteopathic certifying board, the American Osteopathic Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (AOBOG). Florida law recognizes osteopathic and allopathic physicians, and their relevant specialty certifying boards, as equivalent, and the AOA and FOMA respectfully request an amendment to include AOBOG.<sup>1</sup>

The AOA represents nearly 140,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs and is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at [www.osteopathic.org](http://www.osteopathic.org). FOMA is a professional medical organization that represents nearly 8,000 DOs providing patient care in Florida.

**The AOA and FOMA respectfully request the following amendment:**

**Sec. 383.302**

“(a) Is certified or eligible for certification by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology or the American Osteopathic Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, or...”

**The AOA and FOMA appreciate your consideration of our request to amend House Bill 1099.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Raine Richards, JD, Director, State Government Affairs at [rrichards@osteopathic.org](mailto:rrichards@osteopathic.org) or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8199.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Baker, DO  
President, AOA

Ronald Renuart, DO, FACFP  
President, FOMA

<sup>1</sup> Fla. Stat. §459.011(4)(b); Fla. Stat. §459.011(4)(c); Fla. Stat. §459.011(4)(d).

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CC: William S. Mayo, DO, President-elect, AOA  
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Thomas L. Ely, DO, Chair, Bureau of State Government Affairs, AOA  
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