



March 28, 2017

The Honorable Elgie R. Sims, Jr.  
Chairman  
Illinois State House Judiciary - Criminal Committee  
286-S Stratton Office Building  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Chairman Sims:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society (IOMS) are writing to strongly encourage you to oppose HB 2722.** This bill would expand the scope of practice for clinical psychologists to allow them to conduct mental health evaluations and establish diagnoses for individuals convicted of violating the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act. We believe that this expansion in psychologists' scope of practice is improper, and that health professionals' scope of practice must be based on their level of training, education, experience and examination.

The AOA represents nearly 130,000 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). IOMS is a professional medical organization that represents over 3,500 DOs providing patient care in Illinois.

**Psychiatrist osteopathic medical education includes:**

- **Four years of medical school**, which includes two years of didactic study totaling upwards of **750 lecture/practice learning hours** just within the first two years, plus two more years of clinical rotations done in community hospitals, major medical centers and doctors' offices.
- **12,000 to 16,000 hours of supervised postgraduate medical education**, i.e., residencies, where DOs develop advanced knowledge and clinical skills relating to a wide variety of patient conditions.
- Illinois-licensed psychiatrists must complete **150 continuing medical education hours** per three-year renewal period.
- **Board certified DOs also participate in Osteopathic Continuous Certification**, a process that compares their current practice performance against established benchmarks.

**Psychologist education includes:**

- **A four-year doctorate degree.**
- Completion of **one year (1,900 hours) of postdoctoral experience.**
- **Passage of the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology.**

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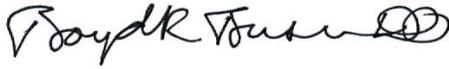
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- **24 hours of continuing education** per two-year renewal period.
- **No program exists to evaluate the professional competence of board certified psychologists over time.**

Psychiatrists' extensive medical education and training uniquely equip them to recognize the underlying causes and subtle symptoms of mental and behavioral health disorders, in order to establish diagnoses and create appropriate treatment plans. Psychologists do not have the comprehensive knowledge and skills to allow them to independently diagnose patients. **We urge you to protect the safety of Illinois' patients and the public by opposing SB 2722.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nick Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, State Government Affairs at [nshelligo@osteopathic.org](mailto:nshelligo@osteopathic.org) or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,



Boyd R. Buser, DO  
President, AOA



Melanie R. Jessen, DO  
President, IOMS

CC: Mark A. Baker, DO, AOA President-elect  
William J. Burke, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs  
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