



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

TREATING OUR FAMILY AND YOURS



TO: Members of the Indiana State House Employment, Labor and Pensions Committee

FROM: Indiana Osteopathic Association
American Osteopathic Association

DATE: January 23, 2018

SUBJECT: House Bill 1384

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Indiana Osteopathic Association (IOA) are writing in opposition to HB 1384. This bill would expand the scope of practice for chiropractors to allow them to diagnose physical injuries, conditions and disorders, conduct invasive diagnostic tests, order and interpret diagnostic imaging on all parts of the body and treat infectious diseases and endocrine disorders. The AOA and IOA believe that this increase in scope of practice for chiropractors is inappropriate, could lead to significant costs to the health care system in Indiana, and potentially place the health and safety of patients at risk.

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. IOA is a professional medical organization that represents over 1,000 DOs providing patient care in Indiana.

The AOA and IOA support the physician-led, team-based approach to medical care because the physician-led medical model ensures that professionals with complete medical education and training are adequately involved in patient care. While we value to contributions of chiropractors to the health care delivery system, we believe any expansion of their authority to provide services to patients requires appropriate physician oversight and commensurate increases in education, training and competency demonstration requirements, which this bill does not provide.

Osteopathic physicians complete:

- **Four years of medical school** after a **four-year bachelor's degree**. Medical school education 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** ("residencies") completed over the course of **three to seven years**, during which DOs develop advanced

knowledge and clinical skills relating to a wide variety of patient conditions over the course of three to six years.

Chiropractors licensed in Indiana complete:

- A four-year chiropractic college program, after **two-to-three years of university-level education.**
- A **two-year residency.**

Per 846 IAC 1-2-1, Indiana-licensed chiropractors are **not required to complete education relating to diagnostic imaging.** Diagnostic imaging, including X-rays, poses a potential risk to patient safety, due to the presence of radiation, which can cause cell mutations that may lead to cancer. If chiropractors are allowed to increase their use of diagnostic imaging, the risk that patients will be exposed to duplicative or otherwise unnecessary radiation also increases. Further, chiropractors have not had similar education and training to a physician, which prepares them to understand the risks and appropriate use of diagnostic imaging.

Chiropractors are not physicians, and lack the comprehensive medical education and training necessary to perform the additional services described in this bill. **We urge you to protect the safety of Indiana's patients by opposing HB 1384.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Raine Richards, JD, Director, State Government Affairs at rrichards@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8199.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Baker, DO
President, AOA



Gaston Dana, DO
President, IOA

CC: William S. Mayo, DO, President-elect, AOA
Joseph M. Yasso, Jr., DO, Chair, Department of Governmental Affairs, AOA
Thomas L. Ely, DO, Chair, Bureau of State Government Affairs, AOA
Brian H. Black, DO, President-elect, IOA
Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, Chief Executive Officer, AOA
David Pugach, JD, Senior Vice President, Public Policy, AOA
Raine Richards, JD, Director, State Government Affairs, AOA
Tabitha Arnett, CAE, Executive Director, IOA