



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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March 7, 2017

The Honorable Lynn Jenkins
U.S. House of Representatives
1526 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Kind
U.S. House of Representatives
1502 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Jenkins and Kind:

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students we represent, we thank you for introducing the “Restoring Access to Medication Act of 2017” (H.R. 394). This legislation would eliminate the restriction placed on the use of tax-preferred accounts to purchase over-the-counter (OTC) medications without a prescription. A requirement established under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The goal of the ACA was to expand access to affordable health care for all health care consumers. Instead, this provision that limits coverage of OTC medications actually increases costs to the health care system and places a new administrative burden on already over-burdened physicians, physician practices, and most importantly, the patients.

Many physicians encourage patients to use OTC products as a means of addressing their immediate health care needs and long-term health maintenance. OTC medicines provide patients an effective, affordable, convenient and accessible means to address their health care needs. Requiring patients to obtain a prescription from their physician in order to receive coverage through their tax-preferred account is burdensome and costly. Additionally, the products impacted by this policy have already been deemed safe and appropriate for direct sale to consumers by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), making the prescription requirement even more onerous and unnecessary.

Again, thank you for introducing this important legislation. The AOA and our members stand ready to assist you in securing its enactment into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Boyd R. Buser" followed by a circular stamp or mark.

Boyd R. Buser, DO,
President