



MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF OSTEOPATHIC
PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS

March 23, 2017

The Honorable Robert Ross
Chairman
Missouri State House Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing
201 West Capitol Avenue
Room 114-A
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Chairman Ross:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOPS) are writing to urge you to oppose HB 244. This bill expands the authority of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to independently deliver health care services by weakening requirements for collaborative practice arrangements with a physician. It allows APRNs anywhere in the state to practice without maintaining geographic proximity to a collaborating physician and increases the number of APRNs with whom a physician may collaborate. The AOA and MAOPS are concerned that removing existing requirements for collaborative practice arrangements for APRNs, without commensurate increases in education, training or certification competency requirements, could put the health and safety of Missouri patients at risk.

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. MAOPS is a professional medical organization that represents nearly 3,000 DOs providing patient care in Missouri.

The AOA supports the “team” 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. Any increase in the authority of APRNs to independently deliver health care services to patients should be directly related to additional education, training and competency demonstration requirements.

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.
- Missouri-licensed physicians must complete **50 continuing medical education hours** per two-year renewal period.

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APRN education includes:

- **A two-year master's degree program**, which may be done online, and is approved by the State Board of Nursing.
- **Approved master's programs** may be done in various population foci and **include some clinical training, but no postgraduate medical education** is required.
- **Missouri does not require any continuing education for APRNs**, except that APRNs who prescribe controlled substances must have completed a **three credit hour course in pharmacology within the previous five years.**

We believe that existing collaborative practice requirements ensure that fully trained and licensed professionals are adequately involved in patient care. **We urge you to protect the safety of Missouri's patients by opposing HB 244.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nicholas A. Schilligo, MS, AOA Associate Vice President of State Government Affairs, at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,



Boyd R. Buser, DO
President, AOA



Jeff Davis, DO
President, MAOPS

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