



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

142 E. Ontario St., Chicago, IL 60611-2864 ph (312) 202-8000 | (800) 621-1773 | [www.osteopathic.org](http://www.osteopathic.org)

February 21, 2017

The Honorable Jeb Bradley  
Chairman  
New Hampshire State Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
State House, Room 302  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Chairman Bradley:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) is writing in support of SB 237.** This bill expands Medicaid coverage for telemedicine services when delivered by health care providers who practice in metropolitan areas. The AOA supports the delivery of appropriate health care services utilizing online technology, online consultations and internet-based health programs, as well as coverage for such services by government and other third-party payers.

The AOA represents nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, including approximately 400 in New Hampshire. The AOA 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).

The practice of medicine via electronic and technological means has been occurring for decades. As technology advances and the breadth of medical practice in this area expands, there is an increasing need to support the delivery of health care through technological resources. In addition to improving access to medical care and services to patients in rural or distant areas, telemedicine allows for easier access to care for immobile patients and those with limited mobility. Cost-effectiveness, through reduced travel times, is an additional benefit of delivering health care services through telemedicine.

Expanding Medicaid coverage for telemedicine provided by health care providers in metropolitan areas will allow low-income patients in all underserved areas to receive the care they need. The AOA urges you to protect access to health care for all citizens of New Hampshire by **supporting SB 237 in committee**. Should you have any questions, please contact Nick Schilligo, AOA's Associate Vice President for State Government Affairs, at [nschilligo@osteopathic.org](mailto:nschilligo@osteopathic.org) or (312) 202-8185.

Sincerely,

Boyd R. Buser, DO  
President, AOA

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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  
Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, AOA Chief Executive Officer  
Laura Wooster, Senior Vice President, AOA Public Policy  
Nicholas Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, AOA State Government Affairs