



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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

March 29, 2017

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick
Chairman
Oregon State House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chairman Greenlick:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) is writing to express our support for HB 3363.

This bill clarifies the proper terminology and role of osteopathic physicians (DOs) as fully trained physicians licensed to practice medicine in all its branches. The AOA supports the position of the Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of Oregon in favor of this bill, which represents accurate nomenclature within the osteopathic medical profession.

The AOA represents nearly 130,000 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.

The terms “osteopathic physician” and “osteopathic medicine” are used in the United States to reference physicians who have the same medical education, training and competency demonstration requirements as allopathic physicians (MDs). In addition, DOs receive training in osteopathic principles and practice, as well as osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT), which involves using the hands to diagnose, treat and prevent illness or injury.¹ The terms “osteopath” and “osteopathy” reference foreign-trained practitioners who are *not* physicians, as they lack full and complete medical training and limit their services to osteopathic manipulation.² DOs, on the other hand, possess full practice rights in all states, including Oregon; this bill simply updates out-of-date terminology relating to DOs and the practice of osteopathic medicine.³

The AOA appreciates your leadership in introducing HB 3363. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nicholas Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, State Government Affairs, at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,

Boyd R. Buser, DO
President, AOA

¹ See <https://www.osteopathic.org/OSTEOPATHIC-HEALTH/TREATMENT/Pages/default.aspx>.

² See <http://www.aacom.org/become-a-doctor/about-om/US-vs-abroad>.

³ See https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors677.html.

The Honorable Mitch Greenlick

March 29, 2017

Page 2

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
William Koenig, DO, President, Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon
Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, AOA Chief Executive Officer
Laura Wooster, MPH, Senior Vice President, AOA Public Policy
Nicholas Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, AOA State Government Affairs
David Walls, Executive Director, Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon