



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION  
TREATING OUR FAMILY AND YOURS



March 15, 2017

The Honorable Gerald McCormick  
Chairman  
Tennessee State House Subcommittee Finance, Ways and Means  
301 6th Avenue North  
Suite 206A War Memorial Building  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Dear Chairman McCormick:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Tennessee Osteopathic Medical Association (TOMA) are writing in support of House Bill 500.** This bill increases the per diem compensation for members of the Board of Osteopathic Examination (BOE) from \$50 to \$100, to reflect equivalency with the allopathic licensing board, the Board of Medical Examiners (BME).<sup>1</sup> The BOE provides vital services to the State of Tennessee by regulating the competency and quality of osteopathic physicians (DOs), just as the BME does with allopathic physicians (MDs). The AOA and TOMA support the change in BOE compensation to reflect osteopathic-allopathic equality, which is recognized elsewhere in Tennessee State law.<sup>2</sup>

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](http://www.osteopathic.org). TOMA is a professional medical organization that represents approximately 2,000 DOs providing patient care in Tennessee.

#### **The osteopathic medical profession in the State of Tennessee:**

- **The number of DOs in the State continues to increase rapidly.**<sup>3</sup>
- This growth was facilitated by the 2007 opening of the **Lincoln Memorial University - DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine**, located in Harrogate. **Current enrollment stands at nearly 1,000 students**, many of whom will match into residencies and continue on to practice in the State.<sup>4</sup>
- With the increase in the number of DO licensees comes an increase in BOE responsibilities and workload, and **adequate compensation for BOE members is imperative to ensuring the BOE's continued efficient functioning.**
- The State of Tennessee recognizes **equivalency in the rights and responsibilities of the physician licensees** of the BOE and BME, and **board compensation should reflect this similarity.**

<sup>1</sup> See T.C.A. § 63-6-104(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> See T.C.A. § 63-9-106(c).

<sup>3</sup> See American Osteopathic Association's "Osteopathic Medical Profession Reports". Available at: <http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/about/aoa-annual-statistics/Pages/default.aspx>.

<sup>4</sup> See [https://www.aacom.org/docs/default-source/cib/2017\\_lmu-dcom.pdf?sfvrsn=14](https://www.aacom.org/docs/default-source/cib/2017_lmu-dcom.pdf?sfvrsn=14).

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The AOA and TOMA urge you to **support HB 500 in Committee**. Should you need any additional information, please feel free to 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



Michael Bernui, DO  
President, TOMA

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