



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION
TREATING OUR FAMILY AND YOURS



March 21, 2017

The Honorable Bryan Terry
Chairman
Tennessee State House Health Subcommittee
301 6th Avenue North
Suite 114 War Memorial Building
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Chairman Terry:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Tennessee Osteopathic Medical Association (TOMA) are writing to request your support for a technical amendment to HB 956. This bill requires the commissioner of health to annually revise recommended treatment guidelines for prescribing opioids that are specialty specific for physicians who are specialty board certified and who prescribe opioids as part of their specialty practice. The bill includes specialty board certifications from both the American Board of Medical Specialties and AOA member boards; however, the bill fails to include the correct AOA terminology. The AOA and TOMA respectfully request an amendment to reflect the proper terminology.

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. TOMA is a professional medical organization that represents approximately 2,000 DOs providing patient care in Tennessee.

The AOA and TOMA would like to request the following amendment:

§63-1-401(d)(2): “Beginning with the guidelines issued for September 30, 2017, and for each September 30 thereafter, the commissioner shall include recommended guidelines that are specialty specific for physicians licensed under chapter 6 or 9 of this title who are certified by one of the medical specialty boards approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association Board Bureau of Osteopathic Specialties Specialists and who prescribe opioids as part of their specialty practice.”

The AOA and TOMA appreciate your consideration of our request to amend HB 956. 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 or (312) 202-8185.

Sincerely,

Boyd R. Buser, DO
President, AOA

Michael Bernui, DO
President, TOMA

The Honorable Bryan Terry

March 21, 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
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
Stephanie Vonnahme, MS, Executive Director, TOMA