



January 31, 2017

The Honorable Eileen Cody
Chairwoman
Washington State House Health Care and Wellness Committee
303 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Chairwoman Cody:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the Washington Osteopathic Medical Association (WOMA) and the American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists (ACONP) are writing to request amendments to HB 1388. This bill contains terminology related to the state behavioral health authority and the Department of Health. It defines a “psychiatrist” as a physician and surgeon who is certified or eligible for certification by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. This language fails to recognize the second type of fully trained and licensed physicians and surgeons, osteopathic physicians (DOs). It also fails to include the equivalent osteopathic certifying board, the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry. Finally, the bill contains incorrect information regarding the length of graduate training programs in psychiatry, which are four years, not three. The AOA, WOMA and ACONP request amendments to HB 1388 in order to correct inaccuracies and to reflect the equal professional status and privileges conferred upon DOs under Washington law.¹

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. WOMA is a professional organization that represents nearly 1,500 DOs providing patient care in Washington. The ACONP represents 890 osteopathic neurologists and psychiatrists from across the United States.

The AOA, WOMA and ACONP request the following amendments:

Sec. 3001 (39) “‘Psychiatrist’ means a person having a license as a physician and surgeon **or osteopathic physician and surgeon** in this state who has in addition completed ~~three~~ **four** years of graduate training in psychiatry in a program approved by the American medical association or the American osteopathic association and is certified or eligible to be certified by the American board

¹ WA Rev Stat § 71:05:20(37) (2016). Available at: <http://leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser/RCWArchive/Documents/2016/Title%2071%20RCW.pdf>.

of psychiatry and neurology **or the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry.**”

Sec. 3001 (44) “‘Psychiatrist’ means a person having a license as a physician and surgeon **or osteopathic physician and surgeon** in this state who has in addition completed ~~three~~ **four** years of graduate training in psychiatry in a program approved by the American medical association or the American osteopathic association and is certified or eligible to be certified by the American board of psychiatry and neurology **or the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry.**”

Sec. 5002 (2) “‘Child psychiatrist’ means a person having a license as a physician and surgeon **or osteopathic physician and surgeon** in this state...”

Sec. 5003 (6) “‘Child psychiatrist’ means a person having a license as a physician and surgeon **or osteopathic physician and surgeon** in this state...”

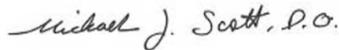
Sec. 6017 (35) “‘Psychiatrist’ means a person having a license as a physician and surgeon **or osteopathic physician and surgeon** in this state...”

We appreciate your consideration of this request to amend HB 1388. 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



Michael J. Scott III, DO
President, WOMA



Anthony Emmer, DO, FACN
President, ACONP

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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