



February 19, 2018

The Honorable Jim Steineke  
Chairman, Wisconsin State Assembly Rules Committee  
Room 115 West  
State Capitol  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Chairman Steineke:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (WAOPS) are writing in opposition to Assembly Bill 582.** Currently, only physicians are allowed to direct and supervise services (including prescription orders) rendered by Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) and physician assistants (PAs); this bill, however, would greatly expand the scope of practice of podiatrists to allow them to act in this capacity as well. The training of podiatrists does not provide the fund of knowledge required to appropriately supervise patient care by these clinicians, and the AOA and WAOPS are concerned that removing physician involvement from the patient care team could place the health and safety of Wisconsinites at risk.

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). WAOPS is a professional medical organization that represents over 1,000 DOs providing patient care in Wisconsin.

**The AOA and WAOPS support the physician-led, team-based approach to medical care because the physician-led medical model ensures that professionals with complete medical education and training are adequately involved in patient care.**

**Osteopathic medical education includes:**

- **Four years of medical school**, which includes **two years of didactic study** totaling upwards of 750 lecture/practice learning hours just within the first two years, **plus two more years of clinical rotations** done in community hospitals, major medical centers and doctors' offices.
- **12,000 to 16,000 hours of supervised postgraduate medical education** ("residencies") completed over the course of **three to seven years**, during which DOs develop advanced knowledge and clinical skills relating to a wide variety of patient conditions over the course of three to six years.

**Podiatrist education includes:**

- Completion of a **four-year Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree**.
- Completion of a **one-year residency**.

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Podiatrists are not physicians, and lack the comprehensive medical education and training necessary to direct and supervise the safe delivery of patient care by APNs and PAs. **We urge you to protect the safety of Wisconsin's patients by opposing AB 582.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Raine Richards, JD, Director, Public Policy at rrichards@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8199.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Baker, DO  
President, AOA



Lenard Markman, DO  
Past-President & Advocacy Chairman, WAOPS

CC: William S. Mayo, DO, President-elect, AOA  
Joseph M. Yasso, Jr., DO, Chair, Department of Governmental Affairs, AOA  
Thomas L. Ely, DO, Chair, Bureau of State Government Affairs, AOA  
Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, Chief Executive Officer, AOA  
Raine Richards, JD, Director, State Government Affairs, AOA  
Sumeet Goel, DO, Interim Executive Director & President-Elect, WAOPS