



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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March 24, 2011

Joint Committee on Judiciary
Room 2500, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and Members of the Committee:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society (COMS) are writing to encourage you to amend HB 6614 in Committee. The proposed bill would permit medical schools incorporated in this state or established pursuant to statute to become a member of a medical foundation. While we support the intent of this legislation, the bill as written excludes colleges of osteopathic medicine.

The AOA proudly represents its professional family of more than 70,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs); promotes public health; encourages scientific research; serves as the primary certifying body for DOs; is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical colleges; and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. The COMS is a divisional (state) society of the AOA and represents the interests of osteopathic physicians in the state of Connecticut.

As written, the definition of "medical school" only includes allopathic medical schools. As I am sure you are aware, there are two types of physicians eligible for licensure in the unlimited practice of medicine in the United States -- osteopathic physicians (DOs) and allopathic physicians (MDs). The United States Department of Education has granted the AOA's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) authority to accredit osteopathic medical colleges.

To ensure parity between osteopathic and allopathic medical schools, we respectfully request that the definition of "medical school" be amended as follows:

"a school of allopathic medicine leading to the M.D. degree, accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, or a college of osteopathic medicine leading to the D.O. degree, accredited by the American Osteopathic Association Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation, and affiliated through governance with or part of a university that is either incorporated in this state or established pursuant to any provision of the general statutes and accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Institutions of Higher Education."

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact Andrea Garcia, JD, AOA Director of State Government Affairs, at agarcia@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773 ext. 8185, should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Karen J. Nichols, DO
President, AOA



Darrin D'Agostino, DO, MPH
President, COMS

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