



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION
TREATING OUR FAMILY AND YOURS



April 20, 2016

The Honorable Joe Hune
Chairman
Michigan State Senate Insurance Committee
125 W. Allegan Street
Room 100
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Chairman Hune:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA) are writing to request an amendment to HB 4935. This bill amends the Insurance Code and defines "board certified" to include the American Board of Medical Specialties, but omits the equivalent osteopathic physician certifying board, the American Osteopathic Association Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists. Further, the bill fails to recognize all appropriate pain-related certifications offered by the AOA. We respectfully request that as the legislature makes changes to this statute, it uses this opportunity to amend the statutory language to include osteopathic physicians certified in either pain medicine or pain management, which the AOA recognizes as equal for the purpose of evaluation and treatment of pain. We believe that this change will maintain the intent of the original law by ensuring that only qualified physicians with advanced training and competency demonstration in pain treatment can provide this care to Michigan patients.

The AOA represents more than 123,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs, is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools, and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org. MOA is a professional organization that represents over 6,000 DOs providing patient care in Michigan.

The AOA and MOA request that the language of the bill be amended as follows:

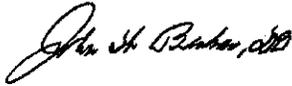
Sec. 2212(a)(5) "As used in this section, "board certified" means certified to practice in a particular medical or other health professional specialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties, **the American Osteopathic Association Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists**, or another appropriate national health professional organization."

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Sec. 2212a. "(2)(b) The professional credentials of affiliated or participating providers, including, but not limited to, affiliated or participating providers who are board certified in the specialty of pain medicine or pain management and the evaluation and treatment of pain and have reported that certification to the insurer..."

The AOA and MOA appreciate your consideration for our request to amend HB 4935.
Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nicholas A. Schilligo, MS, AOA Associate Vice President of State Government Affairs, at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

Sincerely,



John W. Becher, DO
President, AOA



Robert Piccinini, DO, FACN
President, MOA

CC: Boyd R. Buser, DO, AOA President-elect
Joseph A. Giaimo, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs
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