



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION
TREATING OUR FAMILY AND YOURS



March 21, 2016

The Honorable Joshua B. Miller
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Miller:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Rhode Island Society of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons (RISOPS) are writing to encourage you to support S 2497. This bill enacts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. The AOA and RISOPS believe that this bill would ease administrative burdens for physicians interested in holding a license to practice medicine in multiple states, while allowing states to maintain control over medical licensure, discipline and patient protection.

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. RISOPS is a professional organization that represents over 300 DOs providing patient care in Rhode Island.

The AOA and RISOPS support the intent of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, as it will allow states to continue to govern activities within their borders, while encouraging states to work together to ease the burdens of holding a medical license in multiple states. Physician interest in holding licenses in multiple states has grown with the increasing use of telemedicine nationally. This use of technology is one way to improve patient access to care, and potentially address physician workforce shortage issues.

We encourage you to support S 2497 in committee. 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,

John Becher, DO
President, AOA

James F. Griffin, DO
President, RISOPS

The Honorable Joshua B. Miller

March 21, 2016

Page 2

CC: Boyd R. Buser, DO, AOA President-elect
Joseph Giaimo, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs
Michael Murphy, DO, Chair, AOA Bureau of State Government Affairs
Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, AOA Chief Executive Officer
Ray Quintero, Senior Vice President, AOA Public Policy
Nicholas Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, AOA State Government Affairs
Samyuktha Gumidyala, Affiliate Executive, RISOPS