



Michigan Osteopathic Association

CEO/ Executive Director Report
Kris Nicholoff

First and foremost, I would like to again thank our physicians and other healthcare workers for their tireless efforts as we continue to battle COVID-19. You all have been fighting a long and hard battle, please know your efforts have not gone unnoticed by your colleagues and your Michigan Osteopathic Association family.

Over the past year the MOA has continued sharing the latest COVID-19 recourses and information to members and the public. Our efforts have included vaccine information, MDHHS recourses, CDC guidelines, and more. While sometimes our efforts might go unnoticed, occasionally we receive recognition by our peers. In 2021, the MOA was selected as Outstanding Affiliate by the AOA. We were the only state association to receive this recognition and we can look back on all of our efforts during the pandemic and have pride on how well we responded to the challenges.

The pandemic forced the MOA to look at CME a bit different than before. In 2020 we hosted our first virtual CME program which was a huge success. Since then, we have greatly expanded our virtual offerings. Our Learning Center now holds 50+ hours of AOA Category 1-A CME that can be accessed 24/7. The Learning Center has greatly increased member involvement and has proven to be an excellent learning source for busy physicians. It is safe to say that the MOA will continue offering CME programs both virtually and in-person.

Our advocacy efforts have moved forward in full force. With the help of our members and partners House Bill 5523 passed and will play a critical role in providing vital resources to retain and gain healthcare workers in the communities that need it the most. We joined a new coalition - Michigan for Advancing Collaborative Care Teams (MiACCT) that solely focuses on preserving and strengthening the health care teams we all rely on for our care. And we believe it's a coalition that couldn't have come at a better time. Senate Bill 680 was recently introduced in the Michigan Senate that will allow for full independent practice for nurse practitioners (NPs). Our MiACCT team is working diligently to make sure the State knows that that is not what's best for patients. MOA's Approve My Care, a social media campaign to advocate for the passage of prior authorization reform has been effective. SB 247 which provides much needed changes to the prior authorization process and places certain limits on health insurers and plans recently passed the legislature and awaits the Governor's signature.

As the landscape of healthcare continues to change it is important to remember that we are stronger together. The MOA cannot continue to provide the highest level of service to our members and stakeholders without your involvement. We thank you for your membership and ask that you continue to let us know how to best serve you.