

RESOLUTION 2024-E

SUBJECT: ELIMINATING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST RESIDENTS PURSUING
OSTEOPATHIC BOARD CERTIFICATIONS

SUBMITTED TO: Michigan Osteopathic Association House of Delegates

SUBMITTED BY: Michigan Osteopathic Association Council of Interns and Residents

REFERRED TO: Professional Affairs Committee

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as Amended

ACTION TAKEN AT THE MOA HOD: Adopted as Written

1 **Whereas**, the osteopathic medical profession has a long-standing tradition and unique approach
2 to healthcare that emphasizes holistic patient care and osteopathic manipulative treatment
3 (OMT); and
4

5 **Whereas**, osteopathic residency programs provide comprehensive training that incorporates
6 osteopathic principles and practices in preparing osteopathic physicians to deliver high-quality
7 patient care while also promoting the distinctiveness of the osteopathic profession¹; and
8

9 **Whereas**, some residency programs have historically placed expectations or pressures on
10 osteopathic residents to pursue allopathic board certifications, potentially undermining the
11 unique identity and contributions of osteopathic medicine³; and
12

13 **Whereas**, such expectations may create unnecessary stress and conflict for osteopathic residents,
14 detracting from their training experience and professional development; and now, therefore, be
15 it^{2,3}
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17 **RESOLVED**, that the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA) advocates for the elimination
18 of expectations or pressures on osteopathic residents within residency programs to pursue
19 allopathic board certifications; and, be it further
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21 **RESOLVED**, that the MOA encourages residency programs to recognize and respect the unique
22 training and qualifications of osteopathic physicians, including their ability to practice
23 osteopathic principles and OMT in the delivery of patient care; and, be it further
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25 **RESOLVED**, that the MOA urges residency program directors and administrators to foster an
26 inclusive and supportive environment that values and promotes the distinctiveness of osteopathic
27 medicine, without imposing unnecessary requirements, financial burden, or expectations related
28 to allopathic board certifications; and, be it further
29

30 **RESOLVED**, that the MOA commits to advocating for policies and guidelines at the state and
31 national level that uphold the integrity and autonomy of osteopathic residency training programs
32 and the osteopathic medical profession as a whole.

References

1. *AOA files suit against ABIM.* (2021, January 7). American Osteopathic Association. Retrieved February 16, 2024, from <https://osteopathic.org/2021/01/07/aoa-files-suit-against-abim/>
2. *Candidates for Special Consideration.* (n.d.). ABIM. Retrieved February 16, 2024, from <https://www.abim.org/certification/policies/candidates-for-special-consideration/>
3. *Why Would an Osteopathic Resident Become ABIM Board Certified?* (2019, January 8). ABIM Blog. Retrieved February 16, 2024, from <https://blog.abim.org/why-would-an-osteopathic-resident-become-abim-board-certified>