



Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association

MEMBERSHIP VALUE PROPOSITION 2019





Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association

As the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA) wraps up its 2018-2019 fiscal year, thank you for your membership and support. Established in 1921, AOMA has been fulfilling its mission for more than 98 years. Your membership enables AOMA to do many things on your behalf to protect and promote osteopathic medicine.

Building on our strong foundation established over the past several years, AOMA continues to be the collective voice of osteopathic physicians throughout Arizona. The 2018-2019 fiscal year has been one of positive change strengthening our organization, elevating our stature as a stakeholder, and bolstering our position as a leader in the State and the Nation.

POLICY SPOTLIGHT

AOMA's advocacy voice is the collective strength of its Legislative Affairs Committee, Student Legislative Affairs Committee, House of Delegates, Political Action Committee, and most importantly your membership and participation.

This year we rolled out a new "Action Alert" communication platform along with the Voter Voice advocacy system to activate and enhance physician engagement with election officials. Using these new tools, AOMA made it much easier for busy physicians to communicate to their elected officials.

The 2019 Legislative Session was exceptionally productive for AOMA as we worked tirelessly to pass and defeat dozens of impactful bills of interest. Here are the most noteworthy accomplishments:

- **Prevented harmful vaccine bills from passing – bills defeated**
Worked with a strong coalition of allies to defeat bills that would weaken herd immunity by expanding exceptions from childcare facilities requirements and mandating onerous impractical consent and titer-testing requirements to vaccinate.
- **Add flexibility to e-prescribing of opioid mandate – bill signed into law**
Moved various e-prescribing mandated implementation dates from 2019 to January 1, 2020; added exceptions for IHS, federal facilities, and fixed a physician assistant prescribing law conflict.

- **Require disclosure of health plan reimbursement virtual fees, mandate alternative forms of payment, and require notification of silent network transfers with rights to opt out – bill signed into law**

Beginning January 1, 2020, prohibits health plans from requiring physicians to accept just one form of electronic payment, and requires them to disclose processing fees for payment on the explanation of benefits.

Requires health plans to notify a physician if added to a newly acquired network, and if desired, opt out of the network or request a new contract.

- **Protect direct primary care agreements from prohibitive insurance regulations – bill signed into law**

Ensures health insurance requirements do not prohibit direct primary care agreements (agreed-upon fee for a period of time) between physicians and patients.

- **End discriminatory "copay accumulator" policies to protect vulnerable patients' ability to receive financial support to pay for their medications – bill signed into law**
Requires insurers or a pharmacy benefits manager to include in cost sharing requirements amounts paid by the patient or on their behalf for a prescription drug with some exceptions.
- **Prevented pharmacists from adding unprecedented prescribing authority without the education and training to safely care for patients – bill defeated**
- **Pharmacists would have been able to extend non-controlled chronic medications for up to 30 days and test,**

diagnose, and prescribe medications and treatments for tuberculosis, flu, or strep throat, and prescribe FDA-approved over the counter medications, including antihistamines, nasally-administered corticosteroids, and decongestants.

- **Address the physician shortage through funding new graduate medical education programs - bill signed into law**

Appropriates \$9.9 million over 3 years to expand or create new residency programs and \$750k million to support the primary care loan repayment program.

The AOMA Political Action Committee is an important vehicle for promoting osteopathic medicine with Arizona policymakers. Your contributions to the AOMA Political Action Committee enabled us to support 21 candidates for state offices who share our concerns about the future of healthcare, who are in agreement with our principles, and favor a strong Arizona healthcare system led by osteopathic physicians to support better care for patients.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC RESPONSE

AOMA continues to be a proactive leader in the forefront of the efforts to halt the opioid epidemic in Arizona. As an active stakeholder on several taskforces and committees, AOMA strives to ensure that past and new prescribing policies and other interventions are working effectively to address opioid misuse and provide treatment for those suffering from opioid use disorder.

AOMA was awarded a SAMHSA State Targeted Response grant from the Arizona Department of Health Services to develop the [Arizona Opioid Prescriber Education](http://www.AzRxEd.org) platform at www.AzRxEd.org. This program, developed for all prescribers and dispensers, provides free online continuing medical education on Arizona's opioid laws and regulations, prescribing guidelines, and treatment options for opioid use disorder.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

AOMA is committed to providing the highest quality CME covering the seven core competencies of osteopathic medicine, emerging health issues, specialty CME, and dedicated programs for osteopathic manipulative medicine.

AOMA hosted three successful professional education events heavily discounted for AOMA Members – the 97th Annual Convention in Scottsdale, 38th Annual Fall Seminar in Tucson, and 4th Annual Flagstaff Osteopathic Medical Conference. These events provided more than 58 hours of AOA Category 1-A and AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ to meet the licensure, board certification, and professional development needs for all types of physicians.

Missed an event and still need CME? Make sure to visit AOMA's online platform DOCME at www.docme.org and enjoy discounted pricing on online CME programs.

FUTURE OF MEDICINE

The AOMA is family for young and old and it exists to protect the viability of osteopathic medicine for current and future generations by supporting each other. AOMA prides itself on having one of the most engaging and active resident and student membership programs in the country. With strong representation and equal partners in AOMA governance, many bright, forward-thinking leaders are shaping the future of osteopathic medicine.

This past year AOMA's student leaders received the Arizona Public Health Association's 2018 Health Education Media Maker Yearly (HEMMY) Award for their DO Wellness Pop-Up Exhibit Program.

The 2019 AOMA Clinical Case and Poster Competition was a roaring success. The Annual Convention was electric and bursting at the seams with more than 70 poster submissions. AOMA also hosted its 3rd annual Dinner with Doctors student mentoring and networking event connecting dozens of physicians and students.

WELCOME ARIZONA SOCIETY OF ACOFP

In 2018, the Arizona Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (AzACOFP) contracted with AOMA to manage the Society's affairs. New members have been elected to the Board of Directors and leadership is poised for a strong resurgence. Get reconnected to the AzACOFP at acofp@az-osteo.org or www.azacofp.org.

PHYSICIAN WELL-BEING AND PROFESSIONAL SATISFACTION

AOMA is your physician association – we strive to take care of the professional and personal needs of physicians, and that includes addressing burnout.

Legislative Action - Two years ago, the AOMA House of Delegates passed a policy-focused resolution to address the most egregious contributor to physician burnout – administrative burdens. Since then, AOMA has led and advocated for critical reforms to prior authorization practices, credentialing timeframes, reimbursement administrative fees, licensing burdens, and several other important legislative initiatives.

Reducing Regulatory Stigma - AOMA identified on the DO license application and renewal forms a mandatory field to disclose a diagnosis and submit detailed treatment statements regarding mental or emotional impairment. It lacked context and tone. AOMA promptly requested that the Board of Osteopathic Examiners consider its removal or amendment. Thanks to the Board members who agreed with these concerns, we worked together to amend the forms to address non-specific impairment issues without stigmatizing physicians who are safely practicing medicine and seeking treatment for behavioral health conditions.

Bold Steps Forward - AOMA enlisted the College of Health Solutions at Arizona State University (ASU-CHS) to embark on a unique and ambitious project to understand burnout and identify solutions to address it. We conducted a statewide physician burnout survey to gather critical feedback to understand the scope of the problem in Arizona. Through this survey, research, and feedback, AOMA is developing an accurate diagnosis of the problem in Arizona and the solutions the Association can implement to provide meaningful help to physicians.

COMMUNICATIONS

AOMA has taken great strides this year to improve its communications and awareness in the community. We have implemented a robust and impactful digital communications program that has elevated AOMA on social media. The AOMA website will soon be fully optimized and mobile-enhanced for all electronic devices. AOMA is telling the story of osteopathic medicine and sharing the success you are having with your patients.

BUILDING A BETTER AOMA

It was a successful year, but we need to sustain our momentum and build on our victories. Each year there are an increasing number of harmful public policies considered by legislators that impact osteopathic physicians, residents, medical students, and patients of all ages. With your support, AOMA will be there to provide the leadership, advocacy, and resources to face these challenges. Please insure the future of osteopathic medicine: renew your membership, recruit a colleague, or join AOMA today!



The mission of the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association is to promote the osteopathic medical profession, serve our members, provide osteopathic continuing medical education, and advocate for access to high quality, cost-effective healthcare