MAOPS advocates for the osteopathic physicians and students of Missouri by participating in both the legislative and regulatory processes. During the General Assembly, the MAOPS lobbying team and members work directly with legislators to educate them on healthcare related issues. Outside of the Capitol, MAOPS participates in the regulatory process at many levels, monitoring proposed rules, providing input, serving as a resource, and ensuring osteopathic physician representation. The following priorities are based on MAOPS policies, historical knowledge of what to expect, and degree of immediate concern.

**PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE AND ACCESS TO CARE**
Support elimination of non-compete clauses in employment contracts which are counterintuitive to the worsening physician shortage, especially in rural areas.

Support physician-led healthcare access and efforts that provide patients enhanced access to high-quality, affordable physician-led healthcare.

Support tax credits to encourage physicians in underserved areas to serve as medical student preceptors.

Support enhanced physician network adequacy ensuring patient access to specialty and subspecialty services and to minimize out-of-network billing of patients.

Support initiatives to promptly credential physicians ensuring patient access and appropriate physician payment.

**TECHNOLOGY**
Support advancement of physician and patient use of telemedicine in a safe manner, while ensuring the appropriate standard of care is met and payment parity exists between telemedicine and in-person visits when appropriate.

Support efforts to ensure that electronic health records (EHR) and electronic prescribing are used in an efficient manner without burdensome physician requirements.

Mandates for use and payment penalties associated with EHRs and electronic prescribing will be opposed.

**COVID-19**
Legislative and regulatory actions, including executive orders, regarding the pandemic will be closely monitored to ensure public health and safety while preserving physician medical decision-making ability within the appropriate standard of care for these exceptional circumstances.

**PAYOR REFORMS**
Support legislation ensuring physicians can prescribe the medications and treatments they feel are necessary for their patients without undue burdens presented by payors or regulators.

Advocate for improved prior authorization processes to expedite appropriate patient treatment and reduce unnecessary burden on physicians and patients.

**MARIJUANA**
Oppose efforts to legalize recreational marijuana.

See reverse for additional priorities.
PHYSICIAN & MEDICAL STUDENT HEALTH
Support efforts encouraging physicians to seek mental health care, including through the state’s physician health programs, without fear of licensure repercussions.

Support proactive support by medical schools and employers to reduce and/or address medical student and physician depression and mental health issues.

Support enhancement of the safety of the physician workplace, including stronger penalties for those who threaten or violate healthcare worker safety.

D.O. REPRESENTATION AND RECOGNITION
Pursue D.O. representation on state regulatory boards, task forces and committees, especially the Board of Healing Arts, to maximize the profession’s voice.

Legislation and regulations will be closely monitored to ensure that D.O.s are not inadvertently discriminated against or misrepresented.

TRANSPARENCY
Support increased provider transparency regarding credentials so that patients know the level of training of their care provider.

Support increased payor transparency to prevent surprise billing and other payment issues.

LICENSURE MANDATES
Oppose examination requirements and/or topic-specific continuing medical education for annual license renewal.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE
Support physician-led healthcare teams and oppose scope of practice expansion of APRNs, physical therapists, assistant physicians, physician assistants and other mid-level healthcare providers beyond their education and training.

PAIN MANAGEMENT, OPIOIDS, & CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
Support a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) that is non-punitive to physicians and allows use as a tool for patient care and appropriate pain management.

Support efforts to curb prescription drug misuse while maintaining physician autonomy in decision-making regarding their patients’ pain management.

Support access to, and payments for, patient treatment for substance misuse.

Advocate for appropriate payment for alternative pain management treatments including osteopathic manipulative medicine.

MEDICAID
Support appropriate compensation for services rendered by physicians participating in the Missouri Medicaid program, and network adequacy for MO HealthNet participants.

APRN LICENSURE
Support APRN licensure only under the Board of Healing Arts to ensure patient safety by providing physician oversight of all practitioners of the healing arts.