SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF BIOSIMILAR PRODUCTS

SUBMITTED BY: Bureau on Socioeconomic Affairs

REFERRED TO: Committee on Professional Affairs

WHEREAS, the costs of biologics are a significant factor in rising drug prices, accounting for 38 percent of U.S. prescription drug spending, and 70 percent of drug spending growth between 2010 and 2015[1]; and

WHEREAS, entrance of biosimilars onto drug markets have significant potential to reduce drug prices and help contain spending growth, yet only 12 biosimilars have been FDA approved[2]; and

WHEREAS, the development and marketing of biosimilars should be encouraged, but additional consideration should be given to protecting patient; because biosimilars are developed with living organisms, they vary more significantly from their reference product than a chemical-based generic drug would; and

WHEREAS, physicians should maintain discretion over patient treatment plans and when therapies may be substituted in consideration of a patient's condition and circumstance; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) supports policies that strengthen the biosimilar market while preserving the physician-patient relationship and protecting patient safety; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that FDA approved drugs should be accessible to patients, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the decision on which biologic or biosimilar should be used rest with the patient and the physician; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the AOA supports payor coverage of all FDA-approved biologics and biosimilars to enhance patient access and choice.

<u>References</u>

1. Mulcachy, Hlavka, and Case. "Biosimilar Cost Savings in the United States" Rand Health Quarterly. 2018 Mar; 7(4): 3.
2. Cancer Treatment Centers of America. "What's The Difference? Biosimilar and Generic Drugs" December 26, 2018.

ACTION TAKEN **<u>APPROVED as AMENDED</u>**

DATE **<u>July 27, 2019</u>**