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Carayannopoulos, DO,
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**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS
JULY 2022 REPORT TO THE AOA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE), which is comprised of osteopathic physicians serving on state osteopathic and composite medical licensing boards (AAOE Fellows), serves as the unified authority in matters affecting osteopathic medical licensure and discipline. Strategically, the AAOE acts as the voice of osteopathic medicine within the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and collaborates to understand and respond to state regulatory and licensing issues that impact osteopathic medicine.

We currently have representatives on 47 out of the 51 possible regulatory boards (only Alaska, DC, Louisiana and Massachusetts lack osteopathic representation). The AAOE typically meets three times a year, twice in person and once virtually.

Keeping AAOE Fellows Updated on Important Health Policy Trends

The AAOE held its most recent Annual Meeting in-person on April 29th in New Orleans, in conjunction with the FSMB Annual Meeting. During the meeting, we heard from several partner organizations – namely, the FSMB, the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners and the American Osteopathic Association.

The Federation of State Medical Boards shared an update regarding COVID misinformation and disinformation, and legislation that has been introduced that would restrict the authority of US medical boards to investigate patient harm in relation to COVID treatment and provide for the use of medications off-label to treat COVID. The FSMB also updated us on changes to the USMLE licensing exam since 2020, as well as on the reports of several FSMB workgroups dedicated to Emergency Preparedness, Telemedicine, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Medical Regulation and Ethics and Professionalism.

We also heard from the NBOME regarding its mission to protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions. The NBOME informed us of changes to the COMLEX-USA exam, and the recommendations of its Special Commission on Osteopathic Medical Licensure, on which I serve, which included recommendations regarding long-term solutions to assess clinical skills competencies for osteopathic medicine, diversity, equity and inclusion, emerging competencies and technological advances in test delivery.

The AOA also shared reports on its federal lobby day and advocacy summit, the new AOA brand campaign and 2022 state legislative activity relevant to the practice of osteopathic medicine. This included information on legislation to expand the scope of practice for various non-physician clinician groups, the expansion of telemedicine and the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, and other efforts by states to increase license portability as a result of the COVID health care crisis.

142 E. Ontario Street
Chicago, IL 60611

www.aaoe-net.org

202-349-8720 phone
312-202-8499 fax

The AAOE also launched a quarterly newsletter last August to share updates regarding relevant legislation and regulatory activity with its members, and we recently partnered with the NBOME, the AOA and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine on a letter calling for greater discussion around the distinctive licensure assessment for DOs and MDs. The letter was developed in response to the American Medical Association's passage of a resolution supporting the development of a single licensure examination for all DOs and MDs, with a separate, osteopathic-specific test for DO students.

Lastly, I recently participated in the Osteopathic International Alliance meeting on June 11 – 13 in Helsinki, Finland on behalf of the AAOE. Meeting topics included the challenges faced by the medical regulatory community during COVID, the osteopathic approach to long COVID, as well as the progress of osteopathy and its regulation internationally.

On behalf of the AAOE, I would like to thank the AOA for its ongoing support for our mission and activities, about which additional information is available on our website: www.aaoc-net.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexios Carayannopoulos, DO, MPH
President, AAOE