



• 2026 • LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY PRIORITIES



The Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOPS) and the Missouri State Medical Association (MSMA) are member-driven organizations with missions to advocate for the medical profession in Missouri through legislative and regulatory processes. The following priorities are based on policies developed by members and their elected organizational leaders.



PAIN MANAGEMENT, OPIOIDS, & CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

- Monitor the state's prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) to ensure it is used 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 payment for, patient treatment for substance misuse.
- Advocate for appropriate payment for alternative pain management treatments including osteopathic manipulative medicine.
- Support appropriate regulation of emerging synthetic and natural drugs to ensure public safety (including those sold over-the-counter containing THC or other mood-altering components – natural or synthetic).



LICENSURE & REGISTRATION

- Oppose examination requirements and/or topic-specific continuing medical education for annual license renewal.
- Support an increase in medical license and BNDD registration renewal periods.



TECHNOLOGY

- Support advancement of physician and patient use of telemedicine in a safe manner, and payment parity exists.
- Support efforts to ensure that electronic health records (EHR) and electronic prescribing are used efficiently without burdening physicians.
- Mandates for use and payment penalties associated with EHRs and electronic prescribing will be opposed.
- Support responsible utilization of technology (including AI) in patient care, and ensuring the patient-physician relationship is maintained.



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.
- Support increased payor transparency to prevent surprise billing and other payment issues.
- Support enhanced transparency and licensure requirements for physicians employed by payers, including those participating in peer review processes.

See reverse for additional priorities.



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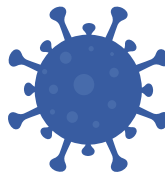
ACCESS TO CARE

- Support elimination of non-compete clauses in employment contracts which are counterintuitive to the worsening physician shortage, especially in rural areas.
- Support physician-led, team-based healthcare access and efforts that provide patients enhanced access to high-quality, affordable, and safe healthcare. 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.
- Support efforts to allow physician employment of physical therapists.
- Support efforts to promote quality rural healthcare and patient access to physicians in rural areas including in emergency departments.



PHYSICIAN & MEDICAL STUDENT WELLNESS

- Support efforts encouraging physicians and medical students to seek mental health care, including through the state's physician health programs, without fear of licensure repercussions.
- Support enhancement of the safety of the physician workplace, including stronger penalties for those who threaten or violate healthcare worker safety.



VACCINATIONS

- Support evidence-based vaccination requirements.
- Encourage vaccination of patients and healthcare workers.



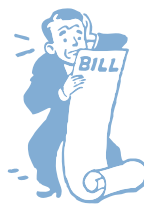
SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- Support increased provider transparency regarding credentials so that patients know the level of training of their care provider.
- Support physician-led healthcare teams.
- Closely monitor and oppose scope of practice expansion of non-physician providers beyond their education and training.



OSTEOPATHIC ADVANCEMENT

- Pursue physician representation on state regulatory boards, task forces and committees to maximize the profession's voice.
- Monitor legislation and regulation to ensure physicians and medical students are not inadvertently or purposefully misrepresented.
- Support state-level increases in postgraduate training programs, including those with osteopathic recognition.



INTERFERENCE LAWS

- Actively monitor legislation to ensure preservation of the patient-physician relationship.
- Oppose legislation that interferes with the patient-physician relationship and ensures physician decision-making ability and accountability.

