

**MEMORANDUM**

**Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society (POFPS)**



**TO:** Members of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society (POFPS)

**FROM:** Jessica Masser, MS, DO, MSMedEd, FAAFP, FACOFP  
POFPS President

**DATE:** October 15, 2020

**RE:** DO's What We Are and What We Are Not

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Dear Members of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society (POFPS):

Until this past two weeks, I have been fortunate to never experience any type of professional discrimination or bias based on my degree. For 13 years I have practiced as a proud Osteopathic Family Physician. I work each day, as so many of my osteopathic and allopathic colleagues, to provide the highest evidence-based, quality care for my patients. To say both the media slandering of my profession and the unprofessional advertisements downgrading my degree and gender has been heartbreaking, is an understatement. This trial we face currently is nothing compared to what our Osteopathic forefathers faced with lack of privileges and respect, but this new wave of misinformation about what we as DOs contribute to the health of the United States population.

I chose to enter Osteopathic Medical School. It was not that I could not get into allopathic medical school. Rather, I believed then, as I do now, that my personal ideals of providing patients with the highest quality care more aligned with Osteopathic training taking care of the mind, body and spirit of my patients. I researched osteopathic medicine and found my home. Through my excellent training at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, I work tirelessly daily to care for each of my patients as I would want someone to care for myself and my family. I am fully capable of practicing every aspect of medicine that my allopathic colleagues can, but I as an osteopathic physician, have a minimum of an additional 200 hours of training in the musculoskeletal system. This training helps me with diagnoses and treatment of diseases beyond looking at patient symptoms.

Osteopathic physicians are a highly qualified, highly trained group of individuals whose main goal every day is to improve the lives of the patients we serve. We are subspecialists in all fields of medicine. We are the backbone of many communities that we serve. We are knowledgeable and skilled physicians.

I wish to be the first to step forward and thank my allopathic counterparts who have stood with us in opposition to the misinformation about our profession recently. Thank you for supporting us. I also wish to ask my fellow Osteopathic physicians to stand with each other. Now is the time to create a united front as a profession to demonstrate that we, as Osteopathic physicians, deserve the same respect as our MD colleagues. We have worked just as hard, trained side by side and work closely with these individuals daily and deserve the same respect as them. Now is a time to set aside our differences of colleges of osteopathic medicine, specialties, residency/fellowship training and show why we are a vital part of the US healthcare system. Our patients deserve for us to take a stand and show what DOs are, and what we are not.