

SUBJECT: Patient Interpreters – CMS Requirements

SUBMITTED BY: Missouri Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

REFERRED TO: ACOFP 2017 Congress of Delegates

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RESOLUTION NO. 11

1 WHEREAS, on October 16, 2016 the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS)  
2 implemented final rules via Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), that  
3 requires all physicians receiving federal funds to implement non-discrimination  
4 policies within their practices, and  
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6 WHEREAS, the final rule mandates that physicians provide free access to interpreter services  
7 for patients with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), and  
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9 WHEREAS, physician access in many areas is already insufficient to meet the demands of  
10 many rural and urban populations, and this unfunded mandate could lead to more  
11 physicians selecting to not participate in the Medicaid and Medicare programs, resulting  
12 in further reduction in access to physician care, and  
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14 WHEREAS, while the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) appreciates  
15 the intent of Section 1557 of the ACA, and believes that patients should not be  
16 discriminated against based on sex, sex identity, ethnic origin, or in any other way, the  
17 requirement of the regulation mandating physicians provide interpreters free of  
18 charge to those with LEP places additional costly burden on physicians providing much  
19 needed care to underserved populations that may result in the unintended  
20 consequence of reduced access to qualified physician care; now, therefore be it  
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22 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) supports  
23 efforts to amend Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act that creates an unfunded  
24 mandate requiring physicians to provide interpreters for those patients with Limited  
25 English Proficiency (LEP) by revising the current federal policy to include adequate  
26 reimbursement for physicians for this service, and further be it  
27  
28 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP work with the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) to  
29 enhance advocacy efforts and make this a high priority issue in both the ACOFP's and  
30 the AOA's annual Legislative Agenda to hasten policy change.