

SUBJECT: The Full, Complete, Unrestricted and Independent Practice of Medicine by Nurse Practitioners

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

REFERRED TO: 2018 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 18

1 WHEREAS, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) advocates for
2 physician led healthcare teams based on their medical education and postgraduate
3 training; and

4 WHEREAS, ACOFP recognizes that physicians (MD/DO) are the only entity licensed by state
5 medical boards to engage in the full, complete, unrestricted and independent practice of
6 medicine; and

7 WHEREAS, Nurse Practitioners are licensed by state nursing boards to practice nursing and are
8 not regulated by state medical boards; and

9 WHEREAS, Nurse Practitioners are not subject to the same regulations as physicians and
10 physician assistants and are attempting to change their scope of practice from nursing to
11 the full, complete, unrestricted and independent practice of medicine; and
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13 WHEREAS, regulation and licensing for all providers of the full, complete, unrestricted and
14 independent practice of medicine should be under only one regulatory body to assure safe
15 quality medical care for all; and
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17 WHEREAS, state boards of nursing were commissioned to regulate nursing practice and not the
18 full, complete, unrestricted and independent practice of medicine; and
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20 WHEREAS, when nurse practitioners diagnose and treat an illness they are practicing medicine
21 and not nursing and should be subject to the same rules and regulations as physicians and
22 physician assistants; now, therefore be it
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24 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) remain opposed
25 to the full, complete, unrestricted and independent practice of medicine by nurse
26 practitioners and the regulation of this practice by state boards of nursing, and be it
27 further;

28 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP will continue to work with state and national entities American
29 Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and
30 American Medical Association (AMA) to educate and inform State and Federal Legislators
31 regarding the dangers in the unsupervised, full, complete, unrestricted, and independent
32 practice of medicine by nurse practitioners.
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FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of MARCH 22, 2018