

SUBJECT: Opposition to Patient Discrimination of Osteopathic Family Physicians Because of Race, Color, Religion, Gender, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or National Origin

SUBMITTED BY: Joseph P. Molnar, DO, FACOFP on behalf of the ACOFP Ethics Committee

REFERRED TO: 2019 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 20

1 WHEREAS, the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) has historically taken
2 a strong position against osteopathic family physicians discriminating against patients
3 because of, but not limited to their race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender
4 identity or national origin; and
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6 WHEREAS, the ACOFP Code of Ethics assure that patients have autonomy and freedom of choice
7 when selecting an osteopathic family physician; and
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9 WHEREAS, patients when exercising that choice, are refusing to have physicians treat them,
10 basing their refusal solely on the physician's race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation,
11 gender identity or national origin; and
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13 WHEREAS, this discrimination is an abuse and misinterpretation by the patient of their protected
14 autonomy; and
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16 WHEREAS, physicians who have been discriminated against in such fashion continue to act in a
17 professional manner when engaging these patients; and
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19 WHEREAS, these physicians, in cases that would without intervention lead to loss of life or limb,
20 have given emergency services to patients who have previously expressed a strong
21 mandate that those restricted physicians should not be involved in any aspect of their or
22 their loved one's care; and
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24 WHEREAS, in these instances the physician is acting in a professional and ethical manner; and
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26 WHEREAS, there is at this time no professional osteopathic organization that supports this action,
27 leaving the physician to singularly defend their action; now, therefore be it
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29 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) support
30 osteopathic family physicians who act in life threatening emergencies to have acted
ethically and professionally; and, be it further
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32 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP supports the education of the public that osteopathic family
33 physicians should be evaluated by their skill and knowledge rather than by their race,
color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin.

FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of March 21, 2019