

COVID-19 Advocacy

While courageous osteopathic physicians and students are on the front lines battling the COVID-19 pandemic, the AOA is advocating to protect you and your patients.

WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR



FINANCIAL RELIEF

Allocate additional relief funding directly to physicians in areas that are in the most need;
Increase Medicaid payments rates to align with Medicare free-for-service;
Postpone the recoupment of advanced Medicare Payments and reduce the interest rate to 0%;
Payment parity between telephone and office visits.



MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

Expanding liability protections to physicians treating the COVID-19 pandemic.



STUDENT DEBT RELIEF

Student debt relief in the amount of \$20,000 for those students and residents that graduated early to fight COVID-19.
Calling on Congress to create a loan forgiveness program to incentivize all osteopathic students to go into public sector health programs.



NON-PROFIT SUPPORT

Financial relief for associations so they can continue to serve as a trusted resource for physicians, students, patients, and policymakers.



MEDICAL LEAVE

Expanding paid family and medical leave benefits for the health care workforce.

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED

FINANCIAL RELIEF



\$175 billion for providers in areas heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Expanded loans for small business.
Financial relief for federal student loan borrowers.

TELEHEALTH EXPANSION



Increased Medicare payment rates for telehealth
A high-deductible health plan with a health savings account can cover telehealth services.
Expanded Medicare telehealth flexibilities.

LIABILITY PROTECTIONS



Liability protections shielding physician volunteers from additional liability for services rendered in response to a disaster.

FUNDING FOR PPE



Additional funding for shortages in medical supplies such as surgical masks and personal protective equipment.

ACTIONS WE HAVE TAKEN

- Built a Tell Your Story Campaign for AOA members to provide guidance on crafting our advocacy messages.
- Sent more than 10,000 emails and social media posts to Capitol Hill through the Osteopathic Advocacy Network.
- Crafted letters to Congress and the Administration with policy recommendations.
- Facilitated DOs participation with their members of Congress to attend virtual town halls.

Join the Fight. Learn more at www.osteopathic.org/covid19