

Advocacy

Grassroots Advocacy and Member Engagement

In FY22, the AOA initiated three dozen online grassroots advocacy opportunities, resulting in more than 4,300 members of the osteopathic community sending 10,420 messages to federal and state lawmakers. Grassroots advocacy contributed to important policy wins on behalf of the osteopathic community in states and at the federal level.

The AOA also hosted monthly webinars for members of its Osteopathic Advocacy Network (OAN) featuring federal and state advocacy updates and open discussions regarding the impact of federal and state policy proposals on DOs and osteopathic medical students.

Federal Advocacy

Through a combination of efforts including grassroots advocacy, direct lobbying, and collaboration with our state affiliates and specialty colleges, the AOA achieved several notable wins on behalf of the osteopathic community in FY22, including:

- Preventing a major cut to Medicare payment rates. Going into 2022, physicians were facing a series of cuts that cumulatively would have decreased Medicare payment rates by 9.75%. AOA advocacy initiatives helped block an across-the-board cut of 9% from taking effect on January 1, 2022.

- Advocating for multiple payment proposals that were accepted for inclusion in the 2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) final rules. One highlight is a MIPS Value Pathway, on which the AOA provided substantive input prior to publication of the 2022 fee schedule rule.
- Partnering with key stakeholders to support enactment of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act.
- Leading advocacy efforts that helped secure the introduction and adoption of Senate Resolution 595, designating the week of April 18-24, 2021, as National Osteopathic Medicine Week.

The AOA collaborated with osteopathic affiliates to send 19 letters and 14 state-specific grassroots alerts to state lawmakers during FY22. In addition, more than 800 individuals from 11 states sent 1,073 messages to state legislators. Collectively, these efforts resulted in successful outcomes on 10 issues, including:

- Scope of practice legislation failing to advance in five states.
- Enactment of Interstate Medical Licensure Compact legislation in two states.
- Adoption of improvements for osteopathic licensing regulations in two states.
- Passage of legislation establishing one state's bone marrow donor registry program.