WHEREAS, the July 2018 Bureau of Osteopathic Specialties (BOS) handbook lists in Article 1. Protocol for establishing specialty certifying boards, section 1, D that, “Notification of the submission of a petition for establishing a new specialty certifying board and/or requesting an assignment or change of jurisdiction will be sent to each AOA specialty college and certifying board by the secretary of the BOS prior to consideration and recommendation”; and

WHEREAS, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Board of Trustees (BOT) voted to approve a resolution on February 26, 2019, which stated “to have the AOA endorse the creation of two pathways to AOA board certification” one without any osteopathic content; and

WHEREAS, the resolution voted on by the AOA BOT on February 26, 2019 that established 2 new osteopathic board exams, was not sent to each specialty college and certifying board prior to the BOT vote; and

WHEREAS, no specialty board or specialty board chair was involved in the survey completed by Boston Consulting Group which led to the proposed board certification changes; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 1, G and H state that “each specialty board will establish its individual requirements for years of AOA training for each primary and subspecialty certification… and each specialty certifying board and CCEC will establish its individual eligibility requirements for examination for certification. Practice within each field under each board will be defined in the policies and procedures of each specialty certifying board”; and

WHEREAS, the resolution approved on February 26, 2019, by the AOA BOT does not allow for specialty boards to establish individual eligibility criteria for certification; and

WHEREAS, Article XII General Procedures of AOA Specialty Certifying Boards Section 1 Bureau Reviews Prior to AOA Board of Trustees states that “All recommendations concerning specialty certifying boards must be presented to the Bureau before being presented to the AOA Board of Trustees for approval”; and

WHEREAS, the AOA is a member organization of osteopathic physicians; and

WHEREAS, the results of a survey of 214 people, 96% of whom were practicing DOs across the USA, shows that 96% of respondents feel that the decisions that shift the framework of the osteopathic profession should require a public comment period
before implementation and 95% of respondents feel that decisions the shift the
framework of the osteopathic profession should require a vote by the AOA House of
Delegates; and

WHEREAS, the AOA BOT and BOS did not follow the established and published bylaws,
policies and procedures when it voted to change osteopathic board certification,
including the elimination of osteopathic content from such certification; and

WHEREAS, the July 2018 BOS Handbook lists in Article 1. Protocol for establishing specialty
certifying boards, section 1, E that, “The BOS may not waive any of the following
protocols”; and

WHEREAS, practicing osteopathic physicians who are board certified by the AOA rely on that
certification for hospital privileges, insurance contracts and credentialing; now, therefore
be it

RESOLVED, that the resolution voted on by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA)
Board of Trustees (BOT) on February 26, 2019, titled, “AOA Board Certification
Pathway” is VOID; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that any future attempts to force specialty boards to remove osteopathic content
from osteopathic certification exams be halted; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that any future attempts by the AOA to alter the standards of osteopathic
teaching, practice, certification or evaluation be given a sufficient comment period to
the AOA membership as a whole, and approved by the AOA House of Delegates via
2/3 majority; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the AOA establish guidelines to set the general direction for minimum
standards for osteopathic content in osteopathic certification, but that osteopathic
specialty boards can maintain the ability to establish individual criteria, above and
beyond that, for their specific specialty exam as they are charged with writing exams and
evaluating candidates.

Explanatory Statement:

ACTION TAKEN _____________________

DATE _____________________________