SUBJECT: OPPOSING TARGETED REGULATION OF ABORTION PROVIDERS (TRAP LAWS)

SUBMITTED BY: The Student Osteopathic Medical Association

REFERRED TO: Committee on Professional Affairs

WHEREAS, Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP laws) are defined as legislation and policy that apply ambulatory surgical center standards to family planning clinic; require specific physical outlays to such clinics; require facilities or clinicians to have attending rights at local hospitals; and/or require clinicians to be board-certified in specific specialties in order to provide medication based and/or surgical-based abortions; and

WHEREAS, TRAP laws single out medical practices of providers who provide abortions and impose on them requirements that are different and more burdensome than those imposed on other medical practices which necessitates significant patient and provider adaptation; and

WHEREAS, there is no statistically significant evidence that performing an abortion at an ambulatory surgical center reduces the risk of morbidities and adverse effects when compared to a standard family planning clinic; and

WHEREAS, providers of abortion reported heightened levels of stress, increased costs, and lowered productivity when complying to TRAP laws without any change in outcome; and

WHEREAS, TRAP laws specifically governing abortion are more prevalent and impose more stringent requirements than laws governing office-based surgeries, procedures, sedation, or anesthesia; and

WHEREAS, countries with less restrictive abortion laws have lower rates of abortions when compared to countries with more restrictive laws; and

WHEREAS, it is reported that TRAP laws directly interfere with the patient-physician relationship which is in violation of AOA policy H307-A/13 INTERFERENCE LAWS; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists to end legislation, including TRAP laws, that impedes access to abortion services and interferes with the patient-provider relationship; and

RESOLVED, that the American Osteopathic Association oppose the Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP laws) that impede and discriminate against a physician’s ability to provide appropriate care to patients seeking family planning services, including abortion.
Explanatory Statement
In light of recent bills passed in Iowa that would ban abortions on detectable heartbeat of the fetus, it is prudent that SOMA and the AOA take an official stance on laws that would prevent abortion providers from providing care to patients seeking abortions. Many TRAP laws are essentially backdoor abortion bans, especially in rural and underserved communities where there are insufficient resources to comply with these targeted regulations.

ACTION TAKEN ____________________________

DATE ____________________________