



February 17, 2020

To: Senate Commerce Committee

From: Vicki Whitaker, KAOM Executive Director

Subj: **Written Neutral Testimony on SB 366: An Act concerning occupational regulation; relating to occupational licenses for certain applicants...**

Chair Lynn, Vice Chair Alley and members of the Committee:

The Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM), founded in 1913, is the only association which represents osteopathic physicians and the osteopathic profession in Kansas. KAOM thanks the Committee for the opportunity to provide neutral written testimony on Senate Bill 366. This legislation would speed up the application or reciprocity of licenses, registrations or certifications for military service members and their spouses.

KAOM cannot comment on the other categories of licensure, registration or certification. The association's comments are strictly related to those licensed to practice medicine and surgery in the state of Kansas and specifically, osteopathic physicians.

An osteopathic physician's license to practice medicine and surgery in Kansas is not an entitlement, it is a privilege earned by the physician. The awarding of licensure comes after many years of education, residency and training. Upon receiving a license, the physician has demonstrated he or she has met the requirements, does not have any "clouds" on their ability to practice medicine and surgery, and has been thoroughly vetted by the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts.

"Clouds" on someone's licensure or practice of medicine and surgery can include complaints, issues or concerns arising from their residency, training, practice of medicine and surgery, or board certifications and questions surrounding their ability to practice safely. It takes time to review all applicable information attached to the application for licensure, to check certifications, follow up on any complaints or questions which might place a cloud on the license.

The association is concerned that as it regards the practice of osteopathic medicine and surgery in Kansas an expediting of licensure could result in someone who because of questions on training, education, certification or impairment cannot practice medicine safely but receives a license. **A ten-day time frame in which to issue a license to practice medicine and surgery is not long enough to ensure public safety.** KAOM knows the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts processes licenses as expeditiously as possible and does not want to see the Board burdened with unreasonable time frames which can jeopardize the health and safety of Kansas residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.