



TESTIMONY
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
SB 46
January 28, 2013

My name is Bob Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM). Thank you for allowing me to comment on SB 46.

The Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM) is in opposition to SB 46.

SB 46 eliminates the required referral from a physician in order for a physical therapist to treat patients.

The Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine opposed a similar bill last year during the 2012 Legislative Session. KAOM worked with the Kansas Medical Society and Kansas Physical Therapist Association on modifications to the bill which resulted in KAOM taking a neutral position.

The “self-referral” issue was once again discussed at the KAOM November, 2012 Mid-year meeting in Wichita. Members once again came to the conclusion that, if passed, SB 46 will disrupt continuity of care, eliminate important safe guards, and possibly delay important treatment. Additionally, health conditions outside of the physical therapist’s scope of practice and/or range of knowledge could go undetected and exacerbate a patient’s medical condition. Physical Therapist are not educated or trained to diagnose medical conditions. They evaluate and asses medical conditions. To most of us, an embolism would appear to be nothing more than a sore muscle. However, undiagnosed or a delay in treatment could result in amputation or even death.

Lastly, KAOM would like to point out that, on page two, line 26 of the bill there is reference to “therapy diagnosis”. In keeping with the language on the first page, KAOM recommends changing the word “diagnose” to “evaluate”. Thus, the sentence would read “...*a physical therapy evaluation is not a medical diagnosis by a physician.*”

KAOM encourages the Committee to vote against passage of SB 46.

Thank you.