



WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
HB 2066
March 7, 2013

My name is Bob Williams, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM). Thank you for allowing me to comment on HB 2066.

As with SB 46, The Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine (KAOM) remains in opposition to HB 2066.

KAOM requests committee members consider the following:

- Individuals representing physical therapists have indicated HB 2006 is not a “gatekeeper” issue, but about collaboration. Osteopathic physicians enjoy great collaboration between all health care providers in Kansas. However, physicians are gatekeepers. They serve as gatekeeper to assure that patients receive the appropriate care and treatment from the appropriate health care provider. A good example of this is the head injury legislation passed last year (SB33). According to this legislation, a child involved in school sports who suffers a head injury cannot be returned to the sporting activity without a release from a physician. The legislation was brought forward as a result of non-physicians making a diagnosis they were not qualified or trained to make.
- In regards to cost; it is only less expensive if the physical therapist makes the appropriate evaluation and provides the appropriate treatment. Otherwise, after seeing a physical therapist, the patient must make an appointment with a physician for an appropriate diagnosis and possibly a referral to physician specialist for appropriate treatment.
- HB 2066 is not only about self referral, it is also about self diagnosis. KAOM would like to emphasize the risks involved with self diagnosis. An embolism can be mistaken as simply a sore muscle. Passage of HB 2066 could result in individuals bypassing a physician and going directly to a physical therapist for treatment, delaying treatment which could result in serious injury, amputation, or death.
- In regards to similar legislation in other states. KAOM does not feel there is anything wrong with health care for Kansas residents being held to a higher standard.

KAOM encourages the Committee to vote against passage of HB 2066. Please feel free to contact me at kansasdo@aol.com or the number listed above if you have questions.

Thank you.