



October 9, 2015

The Honorable John V. Fernandes  
House Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
State House  
Room 136  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Chairman Fernandes:

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Massachusetts Osteopathic Society (MOS) are writing to request an amendment to HB 1170.** This bill creates a parole board consisting of nine members from across legal services and health care delivery. The board would be required to include an M.D. with a board certification in psychiatry, but fails to identify osteopathic physicians (D.O.s), who are recognized equally under the Medical Practice Act and issued the same license to practice medicine by Massachusetts. The AOA and MOS would like to request that the bill be amended to require either an M.D. or D.O. board certified in psychiatry as a member of the parole board.

The AOA proudly represents its professional family of more than 109,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students, promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for D.O.s, is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. MOS is a professional organization that represents the over 900 D.O.s providing patient care in Massachusetts.

**The AOA and MOS request that the language of the bill be amended as follows:**

Sec. 1 “The list of names of such persons for each vacancy shall include one or more of the following... an M.D. **or D.O.** with a board certification in psychiatry and a license in good standing with the Board of Registration in Medicine, a victim witness advocate...”

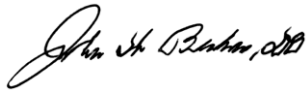
**We appreciate your consideration of this request to amend HB 1170.** Should you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Nicholas Schilligo, MS, AOA Associate Vice President of State Government Affairs, at [nschilligo@osteopathic.org](mailto:nschilligo@osteopathic.org) or (800) 621-1773, ext. 8185.

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Sincerely,



John W. Becher, DO  
President, AOA



William Foley, DO, MSc  
President, MOS

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