

National Osteopathic Medicine Week in Pennsylvania

WHEREAS, more than 186,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students bring their distinctive approach to providing health care for millions of patients across the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's 11,117 osteopathic physicians are dedicated to improving the health of their communities through patient-centered care focused on treating the body, mind and spirit; and

WHEREAS, osteopathic physicians practice in every medical field and specialty, combining medical expertise with a whole-person approach centered on listening to and partnering with their patients; and

WHEREAS, DOs account for more than 11% of all physicians in the U.S., and more than 25% of all U.S. medical students have chosen to practice osteopathic medicine; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is a national leader in practicing DOs, ranking 3rd out of all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is home to three Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (COMs), the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) and Duquesne University College of Osteopathic Medicine; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the nation's DOs practice in the primary care specialties of family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics; and

WHEREAS, 62% of DOs are under age 45; and

WHEREAS, DOs have made tremendous contributions to the American health care system since osteopathic medicine was founded by Andrew Taylor Still, MD, DO, more than 130 years ago; and

WHEREAS, DOs hold some of the most prominent positions in medicine today, including serving as physician to the President of the United States, as well as overseeing care for the NASA medical team and many Olympic-level and professional athletes; and

WHEREAS, DOs are trained to consider the health of the whole person and use their hands to help diagnose and treat their patients;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it Resolved that the Pennsylvania House of

Representatives does hereby proclaim April 15-21, 2024 to be National Osteopathic Medicine Week in Pennsylvania and urge all Pennsylvanians to support this observance by helping to educate members of the public about DOs and osteopathic medicine.