SUBJECT: Proposed Unified Graduate Medical Education (GME) Accreditation System with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)

SUBMITTED BY: Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians (MAOFP)

REFERRED TO: 2013 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 14

WHEREAS, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) have been involved in discussions related to the possible formation of a unified accreditation system for graduate medical education; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians has studied this issue through a committee appointed by the President of this organization; and

WHEREAS, it is not clear at this time if this unification will maintain and enhance opportunities in post-doctoral training for osteopathic graduates; and

WHEREAS, these areas of uncertainty include, but are not limited to: increased costs of instituting ACGME Standards which may close or change programs; the requirement to accept all MDs into the traditionally osteopathic programs, further reducing the number of DOs with access to GME positions; the potential loss of Osteopathic Certification; the lack of Osteopathic representation on future Residency Review Committees (RRCs); the loss of specialty college involvement in programs (inspection review, corrective action, standards review and replacement) and in direct contact and training of residents; the concern that hospitals that own AOA programs may restructure based upon cost benefit and cash savings and not based upon maintenance of osteopathic graduate medical education; the fact that current ACGME bylaws prohibit equal representation for AOA and AACOM; that the supposed protection of a ¾ vote of the members is limited and prescriptive and applies only to membership on the board of directors and ACGME financial issues; the likely loss of osteopathic DME positions and osteopathic Program Director and other positions in the over 150 dually accredited programs; the concern that this amalgamation will potentially decrease availability of slots available to osteopathic students in certain specialties; the fact that our students will be disadvantaged by being placed in a much larger pool of applicants for those programs that were previously solely and dually AOA accredited; and

WHEREAS, there continues to be many significant questions and concerns about the initiative to define a process, format and timetable which, if adopted by the AOA, ACGME and AACOM will result in a unified ACGME accreditation system for programs in graduate medical education; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that any proposed unified Graduate Medical Education (GME) accreditation system will guarantee protection and preservation of the unique distinctiveness of osteopathic medicine,
osteopathic graduate medical education, osteopathic licensure, osteopathic examinations, osteopathic board certification, osteopathic program directors, osteopathic specialty colleges, and the osteopathic profession; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted to the 2013 American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates.

ACTION: Amended and Approved.