RESOLUTION NO. 20

WHEREAS, the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) has historically taken a strong position against osteopathic family physicians discriminating against patients because of, but not limited to their race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin; and

WHEREAS, the ACOFP Code of Ethics assure that patients have autonomy and freedom of choice when selecting an osteopathic family physician; and

WHEREAS, patients when exercising that choice, are refusing to have physicians treat them, basing their refusal solely on the physician's race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin; and

WHEREAS, this discrimination is an abuse and misinterpretation by the patient of their protected autonomy; and

WHEREAS, physicians who have been discriminated against in such fashion continue to act in a professional manner when engaging these patients; and

WHEREAS, these physicians, in cases that would without intervention lead to loss of life or limb, have given emergency services to patients who have previously expressed a strong mandate that those restricted physicians should not be involved in any aspect of their or their loved one's care; and

WHEREAS, in these instances the physician is acting in a professional and ethical manner; and

WHEREAS, there is at this time no professional osteopathic organization that supports this action, leaving the physician to singularly defend their action; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) support osteopathic family physicians who act in life threatening emergencies to have acted ethically and professionally; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the ACOFP supports the education of the public that osteopathic family physicians should be evaluated by their skill and knowledge rather than by their race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin.

FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of March 21, 2019