



West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

Office of the President

July 27, 2016

Dear Attorney General Morrisey:

It was a pleasure meeting with Deputy Attorney General Martin last week. As we discussed, too many opioids are being legally prescribed in our state, and they are destroying too many lives of our friends and family. This becomes abundantly clear to anyone following news reports, or who is well-connected to their community.

But the best practices released by the West Virginia Attorney General's Office have the ability to turn the tide. These recommendations provide rational, concrete solutions that will have tremendous effect in our state if broadly used.

As educators of the next generation of doctors of osteopathic medicine, we ingrain in our students the idea that we treat the whole body, not just the symptoms. We do this by promoting patient-centered, evidence based medicine, not simply prescribing medication to treat an indicator. This approach has led WVSOM to consistently be ranked among the top medical schools by *U.S. News & World Report*, including a ranking of No. 12 in family medicine in their 2017 "America's Best Graduate Schools" publication.

We are proud to endorse the Attorney General's best practices. We do so with the hope that other providers will do likewise, and join us in the fight against the overprescribing of opioids. These guidelines are one of the strongest tools our state has to address this crisis. The idea behind these best practices meshes perfectly with what osteopathic medicine has taught for over a century.

We are also pleased to adopt the best practices in our affiliated health center, the Robert C. Byrd Clinic. We know that following these guidelines will help provide our patients with the care they need, and have come to expect. We ask that other healthcare providers consider adopting these practices as well. The more uniform these guidelines become, the better care the people of West Virginia will receive.

The Attorney General's best practices both fight the overprescribing of opioids, and encourage the practice of better medicine. If enough providers join us in endorsing and adopting these guidelines, we will see real changes in our communities and better health for West Virginians. We look forward to working with you and your office on this very important initiative!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Adelman".

Michael D. Adelman, D.O., D.P.M., J.D.
President

MDA/dg

Cc: Craig Boisvert, D.O.
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