



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
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August 5, 2016

Office of the WV Attorney General
Attorney General Patrick Morrissey
State Capitol Complex
Building 1, Room E-26
Charleston, WV 25305

Attorney General Morrissey:

On behalf of the West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine, the state authority responsible for the regulation of osteopathic medical practice in the State of West Virginia, I am writing to express the Board's support and commitment to the comprehensive approach to the opioid epidemic in West Virginia.

The West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine is responsible for the licensing and regulation of 1233 osteopathic physicians and 244 physician assistants in our state. The Board has been working tirelessly on the opioid epidemic, encouraging physician education on the appropriate prescribing of opioids for chronic pain patients and encouraging the reporting of those physicians who have been at the forefront of the prescribing epidemic. The support of the legislature and the Office of the Attorney General has been greatly appreciated in this fight.

The Board of Osteopathic Medicine is pleased to offer our support of the Attorney General's Best Practice Plan to reduce the use of opioids as a first line treatment for chronic pain and significantly increase the use of non-opioid alternatives for these patients. Giving the physicians, pharmacists and other dispensers the authority and obligation to monitor prescribing and educating themselves and the patient population on the safe use, storage and disposal of opioids and other prescription drugs.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be a supporter and participant in this important initiative.

Sincerely,


Diana Shepard, CMBE
Executive Director