

Published by: Student Osteopathic Medical Association Political Affairs Task Force



External News

Midterms are coming! And not the ones you're graded on, although those might be coming, too. On **November 8th, 2022**, voters will be deciding on every seat in the House of Representatives, 35 US senators, and 34 governorships. **Your voice and your vote as a student doctor are vital** in electing candidates that will make decisions in the best interest of our country, particularly in the field of medicine.

Deciding on a candidate can be time-consuming. To save you some time, we recommend www.isidewith.com, where you can complete a quiz in about **20 minutes** that will show you how well the candidates in your region align with your political viewpoints.

Not registered to vote yet? It might not be too late! You can check the registration deadline in your state [HERE](#).

Internal News

As the nation's largest network of osteopathic medical students, SOMA has a large role in advocacy. The SOMA advocacy focus for October is Human Rights. This is a huge focus with a number of different topics, so this article will focus on only a few. If you would like to learn about other resolutions on specific human right's topics, let us know!

Starting strong, SOMA had two resolutions in 2015 that focused on human rights. The first, S-15-17, was a call to action addressed to the AOA, written by students at the Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine. It asked for SOMA to support the standardization of non-discrimination clause used by osteopathic college admissions offices. Specifically, the resolution asked that the clause include "race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, veteran or military status, national origin or creed." Also in spring of 2015, resolution S-15-09 "Healthcare as a Fundamental Human Right" was approved. This amendment was written by a collection of students from AT Still University SOM in Arizona, Alabama COM, Pacific Northwest University SOM, Touro COM, and Arizona COM. It cited specific articles of the AOA constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the World Health Organization constitution to make an argument for declaring healthcare a human right. Additionally, it asked the AOA to amend their Code of Ethics in order to declare it as such.

In spring of 2017, resolution S-17-06 was approved by the SOMA House of Delegates. This resolution, "Standing Against Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE)," was written by students at Midwestern University - Chicago COM. It addressed the serious problems with SOCE practices as well as the negative outcomes often seen on a person's mental and physical health. The authors cited the AMA stance on SOCE as well as the laws created in various states protecting individuals from SOCE. The ask of the resolution was for SOMA and the AOA to take a stance in opposition to the use of SOCE.

The final resolution being highlighted in this article was voted on in the spring of 2019. SOMA approved resolution S-19-31, "Advocating for Women's Right to Reproductive Healthcare Access and Support of Roe v Wade." In this resolution, written by students from the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, the medical and financial implications of abortion were addressed, and the America College of Obstetrics and Gynecology's (ACOG) view on abortion prohibition and restriction was discussed. The resolve statements were as follows: SOMA supports Roe v Wade and women's right to access reproductive health care, SOMA stands with ACOG, and SOMA calls upon the AOA to do the same.

These resolutions only scrape the surface of the human right's advocacy done by SOMA, and there will undoubtedly be more in the future. As future physicians, we will all be in a unique position to help others - both through healthcare and through advocacy. Anyone who feels strongly about legislation and policy should get in contact with their chapter leaders and consider writing a resolution!

TLDR: SOMA supports standardization of the nondiscrimination clause used by osteopathic medical schools; SOMA supports the statement that healthcare is a fundamental human right; SOMA is opposed to the use of SOCE, and SOMA supports Roe v Wade and stands with ACOG in the protection of women's right to healthcare.

Resolution Spotlight:

S-17-04: INCLUSION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING IN OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL SCHOOL CURRICULA

Can you recognize the signs of human trafficking?

It's estimated that over 21 *million* people are forced into labor and exploited each year. Up to 90% of those people will go to a clinic, emergency department, or doctor's office at some point during the time they're being exploited. So what do we do when they're our patient?

SOMA members from Ohio University Heritage College of Medicine wrote S-17-04 to include human trafficking training in osteopathic medical school curricula. This resolution recognizes the need for medical students to have early exposure to the signs of human trafficking. Healthcare is a field with one of the highest exposures to trafficking victims, but only 13% of physicians feel confident that they can identify a victim. We need to be able to recognize these signs in our patients to connect them to the help and resources they need.

For more information on S-17-04, visit the Policy Database at studentdo.org!

Nominate an
outstanding SOMA
Member for Member
Spotlight [HERE!](#)

Published by: Student Osteopathic Medical Association Political Affairs Task Force

Meet the Newsletter Committee!

Olivia Scholes, OMS III

External Political News + Recommendations
Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine

Amber Shirley, OMS II

Designer
Lincoln Memorial University DeBusk College of
Osteopathic Medicine

Isabella Mazzei, OMS II

SOMA Member Spotlight + Resolution Spotlight
Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Miranda Willis, OMS III

Internal SOMA News + Advocacy
Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine

Rachel Brasington, OMS III

Project Manager
Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of
Osteopathic Medicine

Christine Cho, OMS IV

Editor in Chief
Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine
