

SUBJECT: RESIDENT HOURS

SUBMITTED BY: Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association

REFERRED TO: Committee on Education Affairs

1 WHEREAS, all graduating osteopathic medical students have sworn an oath to the health
2 and life of patients in order to become osteopathic resident physicians, thus
3 dedicating themselves to utmost patient safety and well-being; and

4 WHEREAS, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) is the
5 accrediting body responsible for 8500 postgraduate medical training programs
6 overseeing 107,000 allopathic and osteopathic resident physicians; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2003 the ACGME provided a comprehensive approach, in response to
8 concerns about sleep deprivation affecting resident performance and patient safety,
9 which placed newly revised restrictions on resident duty hours, which are strictly
10 regulated in order for a postgraduate medical training program to be accredited¹; and

11 WHEREAS, the ACGME's comprehensive approach also included increasing institutional
12 oversight and the realization that resident duty hour restrictions are only one part of
13 promoting patient safety while maintaining high-quality medical education for
14 residents¹; and

15 WHEREAS, the ACGME has provided a five-year follow-up report after the 2003
16 imposition of the revised resident duty hour restrictions stating that only 3% of
17 citations are related to duty hour non-compliance, indicating that programs are
18 adhering to the duty hour restrictions²; and

19 WHEREAS, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education has convened a
20 Committee on Innovation in the Learning Environment to continue to study best
21 practices for patient care and investigate necessity of duty hour revisions²; and

22 WHEREAS, in December 2008, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies has
23 published the "Resident Duty Hours: Enhancing Sleep, Supervision, and Safety"
24 report³, giving recommendations that would change the comprehensive and carefully
25 structured restrictions on resident duty hours as written by the ACGME; and

26 WHEREAS, the resident duty hours as proposed by the Institute of Medicine of the
27 National Academies include changes which are unrealistic to legitimate patient care,
28 including the protected 5-hour continuous sleep period between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.
29 and the limitation on admitting new patients after working for 16 consecutive hours,
30 as these restrictions do not take into account certain aspects of residency training

