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RE: House Bill 428:

Dear the Members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 428.

As you know, this bill would change the term from “podiatrists” to “podiatric physicians.” As a member of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society board, we are currently engaged with national podiatric organizations to create an educational pathway for podiatrists to be called “podiatric physicians.” The term “podiatric physician” would be reserved for those podiatrists who opted to complete medical examinations as is required for MD/DO physicians. This legislation appears to be a state-level effort to use a legislative pathway to achieve a language change without meeting the training equivalency. This legislation is being pursued without the support of the national podiatric organizations, as these organizations are currently committed to ensuring that the term “podiatric physician” would be reserved for podiatrists who complete a more extensive, “physician-level” training.

I strongly urge you to vote against this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Casey Jo Humbyrd". The signature is written in black ink and is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Casey Jo Humbyrd, MD
Chief, Foot and Ankle Division
Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery