

Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons

Resolution # 2018-18

SUBJECT: **PATIENT ACCESS TO CARE IN RURAL AREAS**

SUBMITTED BY: MAOPS Legislative Committee

REFERRED TO: Membership for comment

---

1 WHEREAS, the access to quality healthcare has become a focal point not only in  
2 Missouri but nationwide; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, osteopathic and allopathic physicians are being recruited by hospitals  
5 and other large physician groups to locate their practices in populated, urban areas;  
6 and

7  
8 WHEREAS, 109 of Missouri's 114 counties are rated by the federal government as  
9 "below the appropriate provider to patient ratio" and

10  
11 WHEREAS, insurance companies and managed care networks actively decide as to  
12 the number of credentialed providers in an area; therefore, be it

13  
14 RESOLVED, that the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons  
15 supports legislation at the state and federal levels that would require all managed care  
16 health plans, including Managed Medicaid, to allow a non-network physician to  
17 provide services for patients located in a designated Health Professional Shortage  
18 Area, should no physician in the necessary specialty be available in the network, and  
19 the plans should compensate the physician as if they were an in-network provider at  
20 no additional cost to the patient. ~~to have reasonably placed network physicians and~~  
21 ~~hospital access in rural areas, and if the distance is unreasonable, the plans should~~  
22 ~~pay for out of network services at no additional cost to the patient.~~

23  
24 Approved by the MAOPS House of Delegates April, 2013

Recommendation: The team discussed the resolution at length and determined that an arbitrary distance or time from a provider would not effectively address the issue of access. Instead, they recommend using the pre-defined “Health Professional Shortage Area,” as the criteria. While not perfect, it leaves for interpretation than the original policy, and is less vague than a distance or time requirement.

Explanatory Statement:

Click here to enter text.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$0

Click here to enter text.

**<Reminder, a resolution with fiscal impact must be sent to the Budget and Finance Committee for review and action.>**