



AMERICAN BOARD OF
FOOT AND ANKLE SURGERY



**American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®**



April 8, 2020

Governor Larry Hogan, Chair
National Governors Association
444 North Capitol Street, Suite 267
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Doctors of Podiatric Medicine Ready to Serve during National Health Emergency

Dear Governor Hogan:

On behalf of the podiatric medical profession, we write to offer our profession's assistance in addressing the health-care workforce shortage during the national health emergency.

In a time of unprecedented burden on the US health-care system due to the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic, doctors of podiatric medicine (DPM), also known as podiatric physicians and surgeons, or podiatrists, stand ready to serve, and we urge governors across the country to temporarily relax scope-of-practice requirements for podiatrists so we may serve where needed.

DPMs receive medical education and training comparable to medical doctors or doctors of osteopathic medicine, including four years of undergraduate education, four years of graduate education at one of nine podiatric medical colleges, and three years of hospital-based post-graduate residency training.

During this crisis, our collective organizations support podiatric physicians' and surgeons' voluntary contributions at their level of education, training, experience, and expertise. Podiatric physicians and surgeons remain committed to participating in the health-care team and committed to support our country during this unprecedented emergency. Our position is consistent with US Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar's March 24, 2020, letter to the governors urging immediate action, including relaxing certain scope-of-practice requirements. We share in Secretary Azar's urgency and ask that the National Governors Association recommend to all governors to act to temporarily relax scope-of-practice standards for doctors of podiatric medicine immediately.

We thank you and your colleagues for your leadership in this difficult time. If you or any member of your team has any questions or needs additional information, please reach out to APMA CEO & Executive Director James R. Christina, DPM, at jrchristina@apma.org or 301-581-9200.

Sincerely,



David G. Edwards, DPM
President, American Podiatric Medical Association



Keith Jacobson, DPM
President, American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgeons



William E. Chagares, DPM
President, American Board of Podiatric Medicine



Scott C. Nelson, DPM
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Scott A. Spencer, DPM
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