

*Texas Osteopathic Medical Association's Position on the M.D. Option at the  
University of North Texas:*

1. The University of North Texas (UNT) wants to start another medical school in Fort Worth. The Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex already has two medical schools, one that is nationally recognized for training primary care physicians, UNT's Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) and the other (U.T. Southwestern) for training specialty physicians. Creating a third medical school in the Metroplex would be a **waste of State resources and duplication of service.**
2. **TCOM** has, by far, the **State's best record** for graduating the highest percentage of **primary care** physicians. The UNT's decision to place another medical school on campus with TCOM would **compete with and degrade UNT's existing, already superior medical school, TCOM.**
3. The Texas Osteopathic Medical Association (TOMA) and the Texas Medical Association recognize the **critical shortage of primary care** and statewide need for access to health care. TOMA supports the development of medical schools in **underserved areas rather than in the DFW Metroplex** where 2 of the state's 9 medical schools already reside.
4. The cost of developing a new medical school in Fort Worth as presented by UNT (**\$21.5 million**) is **not realistic.** Based on figures published by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Sept. 2008), the start up costs (for administration, faculty, and staff only) in the first four years was estimated to be at least \$98 million. This would be more in line with the **actual start up costs** of the newest medical school in Texas (the Paul Foster School of Medicine in El Paso estimates costs of well over **\$100 million**) as well as other recent medical school expansions and proposals.
5. The UNT Health Science Center and TCOM are STATE funded by taxpayers from ALL of Texas and train physicians for ALL of Texas who provide access to quality health care for millions of Texans in communities across the State, not just Fort Worth. **This is not a local issue.**
6. **Current state law** (EDUCATION CODE, TITLE 3. HIGHER EDUCATION, SUBCHAPTER H. Sec. 105.402) prohibits the UNT Regents from awarding an M.D. degree and is consistent with the original agreement transferring the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine to the UNT System. This law protects the only osteopathic medical school in Texas: TCOM. The Texas Osteopathic Medical Association, representing the majority of Texas D.O.'s, supports the present law as it was written.