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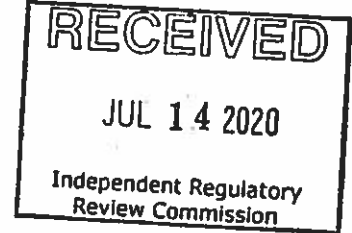
**PENNSYLVANIA
OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION**

EMBARGOED MATERIAL

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July 14, 2020

George D. Bedwick, Chairperson
Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101



RE: Reg. No. 16-A5334 State Board of Osteopathic Medicine Fees

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TRANSMISSION ONLY

Dear Mr. Bedwick:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA), we believe having a distinct and separate osteopathic medical board from our allopathic counterparts is in the best interest of practicing osteopathic physicians within our Commonwealth. POMA believes a strong and viable State Board of Osteopathic Medicine (SBOM) is an important component to preserve osteopathic identity and osteopathic practice rights. In absence of this, Osteopathic physicians will have a regulatory board that may not have an understanding of osteopathic principles and practices, or little experience with Osteopathic physicians in Pennsylvania.

It is our understanding that if the SBOM does not increase its fees, it will cease to exist. This is not an outcome we can support. POMA would be negligent if we did not bring to your attention that osteopathic physicians are in dire straits relative to caring for those in the Commonwealth. We know there has been loss of employment and practice brought on by COVID-19. It is difficult to support an additional financial burden on Osteopathic physicians.

However, POMA will not object to increasing the fees for sole reason we believe the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine should remain intact. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Andy Sandusky at asandusky@poma.org.

Sincerely,

Gene M. Battistella
POMA President