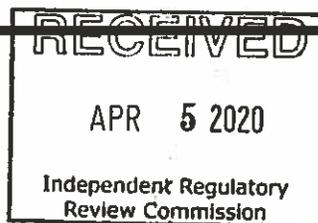


Stephen Hoffman



From: Bgav L <bgav43@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, April 5, 2020 5:18 PM  
To: IRRC; RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov  
Subject: Re: Regulation #16A-5334: Fees

CAUTION: \*\*EXTERNAL SENDER\*\* This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Fiona E. Cormack (FEC)  
Scott R. Schalles (SRS)

**Analysts Assigned** These two analysts have not analyzed the main question.. why are there 2 boards doing the s double the overhead to the state?

On Sun, Apr 5, 2020 at 5:15 PM Bgav L <bgav43@gmail.com> wrote:

Why is there not an analysis or answer on why the 2 boards (MD and DO) be combined?

<http://www.irrc.state.pa.us/docs/3254/AGENCY/3254PRO.pdf>

That would be the most cost effective method rather than having two boards do the same thing.

On Sun, Apr 5, 2020 at 5:02 PM Bhargav C <bgav43@gmail.com> wrote:

It is extremely upsetting that in the midst of a pandemic when healthcare providers are being pulled in every direction and aim to serve patients the board is planning to raise dues with not giving the proper platform for a debate to check if the board is still relevant and serving their members best interest and helping the state serve the patients. As a DO in the state of PA, working with this board for licensing and the archaic rules for renewal have been one of the worst experiences of my professional career.

I have urged regulators and state representatives to remove the board of osteopathic medicine and make one board of medicine for DOs and MDs. The osteopathic board is useless and unnecessary and many other DOs have the same sentiment. More than 90% of DOs are not AOA members and agree that MDs and DOs should follow the same state licensing system. This option is more cost effective for the state and would prevent situations like this where fees need to be raised for one group of licensed providers. There is no other regulated occupational license that has 2 separate boards?!

The osteopathic board serves the AOA and creates additional costs and hassle for physicians trying to serve patients.

According to a recent report "by 2030, the report warns, Pennsylvania alone will need an additional 1,000 physicians just to maintain its current level of care" In fact, Pennsylvania ranks high in the number of future physicians it educates. Medical schools in the state had 7,949 students during the 2012-13 academic year, which was the fourth most in the country for the number of medical students per 100,000 people.

Here is a bit about my experience applying for my license..

As a physician who is trying to acquire a license in your state to treat patients, I submitted my application in January and it is still yet to be processed (it took 9 months)! As a US citizen, I have no criminal history, no malpractice history and the speed at which PA processes such applications is abysmal compared to states of similar size and population. In other states, I have had my application processed in a few weeks! Whenever I call the physician licensing office, I get extremely vague answers that this is a busy time of the year, however the online portal that is used is extremely inefficient and does not show any sort of useful update.

After 8 months since I have submitted my application, I am now at risk of having my job offer rescinded due to how slow the application is getting processed by the state licensing agency. PA stands to lose another physician who will not get to practice medicine in the state, due to the inefficient processing of a straightforward license application. Of concern, this results in a delay of Pennsylvania residents being able to see a physician and a delay in the care for your constituents.

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Please clean the swamp and disband this organization. They don't deserve a raise in dues and certainly don't need to be in existence. Combine the DOs into the state board of medicine and put an end to this madness.