



June 24, 2020

Dear Mr. Suter,

I am a member of the Board of the Pennsylvania Podiatric Medical Association(PPMA) writing to express my concern on a few issues addressing our profession regarding Proposed Rulemaking issued by the Podiatric Licensing Board. You have already received an email detailing our concerns by our president, Dr. Sabrina Minhas.

There are three main issues I am very concerned about. The first is to reduce the number of CME hours from 50 to 45. CME credits are in place as a support system to help drive improvements and advancements in the podiatric medicine and surgery profession. This allows us to optimize our patient care with the newest information that evolves on a daily basis. Although it is very difficult to keep up with all the continual changes in medicine, the more information and often the most current information is often provided at the CME seminars. We should not decrease the number of hours when we need the most available information provided to us on a regular and continuous basis.

The second issue regards expanding the number of internet issued CME credits. I recently attended a 20 CME online course and I can tell you without doubt, that the attendees can easily get the credits as long as they sign in on a regular basis without even paying much attention to the lectures that are going on. Unfortunately, this is a pattern. I teach medical students on a daily basis on Zoom, a web conferencing platform. I will question students, all which are signed in, only to find out they are not present at their computer actively listening. I have always believed you can't force someone to learn, but let's curtail the amount of "faith" we have in people and not make it easier for them to discard academics necessary to practice effectively. In person attendance at conferences and direct contact to speakers and hands on workshops is necessary and encourages interactive long-term learning.

The last issue is regarding establishing Journal hours for CME credits. Journal reading is a regular part of learning in any medical profession to ensure excellent quality in patient care. We must keep current in all the groundbreaking discoveries and information available to us in every learning platform. This is difficult to monitor or verify and should not be credited.

Last January I was one of only two physicians that spoke on Capitol Hill at a State Wide Conference on the Proposed Pennsylvania Venue Change regarding the rising malpractice claims in Philadelphia. Now is not the time to reduce any portion of our medical education and advanced training.

**Sincerely,**

**Jane Pontious DPM**

**Clinical Professor, Dept. of Podiatric Surgery**

**Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine**

**PPMA Board Member**