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POMA MEMORANDUM

TO: Randy J. Litman, DO
c/o Regulatory Counsel for the Department of State
State Board of Osteopathic Medicine

FROM: Pamela S. Goldman, DO – POMA President

CC: Andy Sandusky, POMA EVP Public Policy and Association Affairs

DATE: April 2, 2020

RE: 16A-5334 Fees

Via Electronic Mail Transmission Only

Dear Dr. Litman, et al.,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA), and the over 8,000 osteopathic physicians in Pennsylvania, POMA recognizes and supports the need for the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine (Board) to raise its fees via regulation 16A-5334 to generate revenue to meet its operating expenses. However, POMA does have some questions and concerns which I will outline.

POMA's main concern is the timing of the regulations and if the Board remains confident the regulations will go through the regulatory process in time for the renewal notices to go to osteopathic physicians. The entire IRRC process can last for a very long time in the best of circumstances. In this case, the Board will attempt to get the regulations in final form by the July 16, 2020 or the August 20, 2020 meeting of the IRRC. Renewals usually go out at the beginning of August with a deadline of October 31, 2020.

As a result of this ambitious timeframe, is the Board preparing contingency plans to adjust the timing of its renewal period if the regulations are not in place by August? If the renewal date needs extended, will the fines applied to those who have something missing from their renewal application be given a later renewal date before being charged? While many osteopathic physicians stand with you, many will want to know if the Board will be flexible if it doesn't have the regulations in place to accommodate the expected renewal process. Unfortunately, missing the timeframe for promulgating regulations before the renewal is becoming more likely give the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine needs.

POMA also notified its membership of the regulatory proposal to increase fees in one of its recent publications and requested feedback. POMA received some general concerns with the size of the increase in the out-years but fell short of opposition. One member asked POMA what level of oversight is provided to ensure the money is being spent correctly. POMA did not have an adequate response, so we pose it here to the Board. Separate from the need for an official response, if the Board could supply additional and more granular information on where the money is being spent, that would be helpful for POMA to explain to our shared constituencies.

Thank you for your consideration in answering these concerns. If you have any questions, please reach out to POMA's EVP of Public Policy and Association Affairs, Andy Sandusky and asandusky@poma.org