



Board of Physicians

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

February 20, 2020

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Room 101, 6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB 820 - Child Abuse and Neglect - Training of Health Care Professionals - Letter of Concern

Dear Chair Clippinger:

The Maryland Board of Physicians (Board) respectfully expresses concerns about House Bill 820.

The Board supports the bill's goal to assure that child abuse is reported and is willing to post appropriate courses for licensees on its Website. However, the Board has concerns about mailing the list of courses to licensees at the time of renewal. Under §14-316(d)(5) of the Maryland Medical Practice Act, the Board is prohibited from requiring licensees to complete specific courses or programs as a condition of license renewal. The Board believes that sending the list of courses with the renewal information will make it appear that the Board endorses or requires the courses for license renewal, in contravention of the explicit statutory prohibition.

In addition to physicians, the Board licenses eleven allied health professions. The allied health licensees renew at different times throughout the year, and current law requires licensees to obtain continuing education credits prior to submitting their renewal applications. Notifying licensees about courses at the time of license renewal would be too late in the process to be of effect, and this change to the Board's license renewal process would require considerable staff time and expense to modify existing Board operations.

The Board currently posts a broad range of information and educational courses on its website and is agreeable to adding these courses to its list of resources, but the Board believes that posting courses on its website would not be as effective as integrating all aspects of child abuse training, including reporting, into the curriculum of the educational programs of the various practitioners licensed by the Board. In that regard, the Board recommends that this issue be brought to the attention of deans and directors of health care practitioner education programs.

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The Board asks for a favorable vote on this bill with the Board amendment.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Wynnee E. Hawk, 410-764-3786.

Executive Director



Christine A Farrelly

cc: Members of the Judiciary Committee
Webster Ye, MDH

AMDENDMENT NO. 1

On pages 3 and 4, strike beginning with “WEBSITE” in line 28, on page 3, down through “BOARD” in line 2, on page 4, inclusive.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Maryland Department of Health or the Administration.