

VIA FAX: (405) 848-8240

James Gormley, M.D., President
Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision
5104 N. Francis, Suite C
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Dear Dr. Gormley and Members of the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision:

I am writing in reference to the proposed change in rule 435:10-7-2 regarding the “Use of Board Certification” by physicians.

I am a member of the Association of Emergency Physicians (AEP) which is a national organization that represents all emergency physicians regardless of training or board certification.

It is my understanding that, should this proposed rule pass, the OSBMLS would only recognize physicians board certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS).

However, the American Association of Physician Specialists (AAPS) is the third largest nationally recognized physician multi-specialty certifying body in the United States and one of the only alternative pathways still available for practicing physicians to attain board certification in their specialty. Not recognizing this alternative pathway would lead to less stringent criteria that this extra testing step offers for physicians working in Oklahoma emergency rooms. The eligibility criteria is as stringent as the ABMS certifications. In addition, the Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners presently recognizes AAPS certified physicians as board certified in their specialty.

With the trend in hospitals leaning towards a preference for board certified physicians in their practicing specialty, this bill could create or worsen an instant artificial shortage of board certified physicians in your state.

I think that this would be a mistake. If this rule passes, I believe that it would drastically limit and reduce the number of available, qualified, well trained, board certified physicians in your rural counties.

Dr. Gormley and members of the Board, I urge you to vote “NO” on this proposed amendment and help protect access to quality healthcare for rural Oklahomans.

Should you have any questions regarding this issue please do not hesitate to contact me at

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Sincerely,