

July 19, 2016

Senator Brian Shiozowa

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XXXXXX, UT, 84XXX

RE: House Bill 186, Volunteer Health Care Continuing Education Credit

Dear Senator Shiosawa,

As chairman of the Utah Division of Professional Licensing Physician Licensing Board, I have been asked to write to express dismay and concern with your recent senate sponsorship of House Bill 186, Volunteer Health Care Continuing Education Credit in the 2016 Legislative session. The Physician Licensing Board's responsibility is to assist the state of Utah in assuring the safety and quality of care provided by physicians licensed to the citizens of Utah.

Though it is sometimes argue the value of continuing medical education (CME) credit in assuring the quality of care delivered is limited, it remains one of the few objective measures that can be assessed that gives a hint as to the efforts physicians are making in maintaining their competency. It also remains a requirement to maintain licensure in the State of Utah. The Physician Licensing Board strongly objects in the diminishment of this requirement through the dangling of CME forgiveness for someone to provide care in a federally qualified health center or volunteer health care treatment. Dilution of CME requirements does nothing to assist in assuring the quality of health care delivered to the state's citizens and in fact makes it easier to assure lesser quality care is provided risking the health and welfare of the citizens of this fine state.

Lastly, the Board wished me to express additional dissatisfaction that as an official entity assigned to assist the State in meeting its licensing obligations, and appointed by the governor it has not been consulted when issues of this nature are being considered. We would request that in the future input from the Physician Licensing Board be sought on these or similar matters to assure that mutual intent to serve the citizens of the state of Utah and assure that safe high quality care is provided.

If you wish to discuss this issue further, the Board is available for further conversation now and in the future.

Respectfully,

Kenneth L. Schaecher, MD FACP CPC
Chairman, Physician Licensing Board
State of Utah Division of Professional Licensing