

Delaware Podiatric Medical Association, Iowa Podiatric Medical Society, Maryland Podiatric Medical Association, New York State Podiatric Medical Association, Pennsylvania Podiatric Medical Associations, Vermont Podiatric Medical Association, Virginia Podiatric Medical Association, Washington Podiatric Medical Association

August 18, 2021

Jeffrey DeSantis, DPM
President
American Podiatric Medical Association

IN RE: White Paper and Proposed AMA Resolution

Dear Dr. DeSantis,

Thank you for arranging the Zoom Town Hall meeting on August 11th. The meeting's widespread discussion, within the profession, was an important critical step in moving the process forward. While the necessarily timed format allowed many voices to be heard, and several of the posed questions to be answered; the time limitations also prevented many commenters from participation and many questions still remain unanswered.

One proposal was made by Dr. Lloyd Smith during the open section soliciting comments. Dr. Smith offered the following:

"In view of the proposed resolution to the AMA HOD that would allow DPMs to sit for the USMLE, an in-depth review should occur that would discuss all issues related to parity, with all the stakeholders in the podiatric profession involved.

If the organizational process of the Educational Enhancement Project is reviewed, which created a standardized curriculum for the colleges and a mandatory 2-year residency program, the study model for this in-depth review exists and was proven effective.

APMA should collaborate with all stakeholder groups within the podiatric profession, to review all the steps needed to achieve parity. The EEP included a comprehensive group including representatives of the APMA, ACFAS, APMSA, The AACPM, The National Board, the State Boards, the Surgical and Medical Boards, the Executive Directors, and members of the HOD. This review regarding parity should include a similar group of representatives.

This group would need an independent facilitator, such as Lynn Curry, PhD or someone with similar expertise, who is extremely knowledgeable about podiatry and its many issues. Lynn was highly effective during the EEP process.

The group would be limited to defining the relevant issues regarding parity and the feasibility of how to proceed. The APMA BOT could approve this study and the initial phases could be done via video and/or conference calls. The largest costs would be the facilitator and staff time.

The future steps needed as recommended by this study group are to be determined.

Cooperation and collaboration with all the stakeholders will be needed.

If deemed appropriate, a resolution authorizing the direction as determined by the feasibility study should be presented to the 2022 HOD by the APMA Board of Trustees.”

While this proposal introduces a cost and time component to the consideration of this initiative, our states feel that this is the most appropriate next step in determining a pathway to physician parity, which will assure that no faction of the profession will be opposed to or harmed by the APMA led actions. This type of forum would comply with the principles expressed in the 2006 Report of the Vision 2015 Committee. That Report, which included a discussion of the USMLE, stated:

“It will take the leadership effort of the Board of Trustees directed by the House of Delegates working in close cooperation with the state component associations and colleges of podiatric medicine with support of the profession to successfully move this initiative forward.”

The most important phrase in that statement is that successfully moving the initiative forward, will take the “... support of the profession...”

Creating the type of forum described by Dr. Smith, we feel, is a requirement if, collectively, we are to achieve the full support of the profession. The Forum will also give us time to evaluate the impact of a proposed requirement to successfully pass Step 3 which was added to USMLE after the initial APMA Resolution on this matter.

In an open process, as is proposed, your component partners can be involved in this initiative. We feel that this step is an active approach to the issue and seeks to avoid, or diminish, the likelihood of the AMA House presenting APMA with the results of an unpredictable AMA Resolution amendment process.

Please let us discuss the importance of this openness with you, at your convenience.

Respectively submitted for your consideration,

Delaware Podiatric Medical Association, Iowa Podiatric Medical Society, Maryland Podiatric Medical Association, New York State Podiatric Medical Association, Pennsylvania Podiatric Medical Associations, Vermont Podiatric Medical Association, Virginia Podiatric Medical Association, Washington Podiatric Medical Association