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GOVERNOR

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BOARD OF LICENSURE IN MEDICINE  
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April 20, 2023

Senator Joseph Baldacci, Chair  
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair  
Committee on Health and Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

**Re: LD 1360 – “An Act Requiring Training Regarding and Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences”**

Dear Senator Baldacci and Representative Meyer:

The Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine (“BOLIM”) licenses and regulates allopathic physicians and physician assistants in Maine. BOLIM is composed of 11 members: 6 physicians who actively practice medicine; 2 physician assistants who actively render medical services; and 3 public members. BOLIM’s mission is to protect the public by ensuring its licensees are ethical, professional and competent. It fulfills this mission by licensing, regulating, and educating physician and physician assistants.

In general, BOLIM does not require continuing medical education (“CME”) in any specific subject area. BOLIM relies upon the professionalism of its licensees to identify and complete CME relevant to their specific medical specialty and the specific patient population they treat. BOLIM believes, in general, that requiring specific CME for all licensees runs the risk of unnecessarily burdening them with mandated education unrelated to their medical practice. Therefore, BOLIM generally does not support mandating specific CME.

Currently, the only mandated CME is that enacted by the Maine Legislature in 2015 requiring 3 hours of opioid-related CME for licensees who prescribe opioids. This legislation was enacted in response to the ongoing opioid epidemic.

BOLIM offers the following comments neither in support of nor against LD 1360:

- The bill enacts a new chapter in Title 22, which is normally administered by the Department of Health and Human Services but only applies to certain professional licensees and therefore, would more appropriately be located in Title 32.

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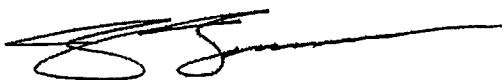
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- There is no definition of adverse childhood experiences.
- The components and length of the required training are not specified.
- It is unclear whether this is a requirement for initial licensure, renewal of licensure, or a one-time requirement.
- It is unclear whether failure to receive the required training is grounds for disciplinary action or denial of licensure.
- It is unclear whether a failure to conduct the required screening(s) is grounds for disciplinary action or denial of licensure.
- The requirements of training and screening also apply to all licensees in all specialties not just those serving in areas of medicine where childhood trauma is relevant to diagnosis and treatment (i.e. primary care; family medicine, pediatrics; obstetrics and gynecology; psychiatry). For example, why would the training be relevant to the practices of anesthesiologists, gastroenterologists or surgeons?

BOLIM contracts with an entity to provide free online CME for its licensees (and any other types of licensees). Through the contract, BOLIM produces three courses per year. The courses cover current topics affecting the practice of medicine in Maine. BOLIM could, with a better understanding of the issue to be addressed, create a CME course regarding this subject for the following year and promote it as a resource for all licensees without the need to mandate that all licensees complete the training.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments regarding LD 1360.

Sincerely,



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Assistant Executive Director

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