



THE STUDENT NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNMA STATEMENT ON LCME ELIMINATION OF DIVERSITY PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Washington, DC — May 29, 2025 —The Student National Medical Association (SNMA) is deeply saddened and disappointed by the recent announcement from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) to eliminate the accreditation requirement formerly known as Standard 3.3, which required medical schools to engage in diversity programs and partnerships aimed at increasing representation in medicine.

This reversal is a significant step backward in the national effort to address longstanding disparities in medical education and healthcare outcomes. Standard 3.3 is also aligned with the growing body of evidence demonstrating that diverse healthcare teams improve patient care, promote innovation, and enhance educational experiences for all learners¹⁻⁴. Dismantling institutional commitments to inclusive recruitment and retention efforts risks reversing decades of progress in addressing systemic inequities in medical education and healthcare delivery.

The elimination of Standard 3.3 weakens institutional accountability and deprioritizes efforts to eliminate systemic barriers in the medical field. While some medical schools may continue to voluntarily follow diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, the loss of accreditation incentives risks further elimination of these programs amid rapidly growing financial and political pressures.

As the nation's leading student-run organization dedicated to supporting current and future underrepresented minority medical students, the SNMA remains steadfast in its mission to diversify the face of medicine. The removal of this standard sends a disheartening message at a time when our country faces widening health disparities and a retreat from efforts to build a healthcare workforce that mirrors the diverse communities it is meant to serve. The SNMA stands in solidarity with students, educators, and leaders across the country who are committed to fostering inclusive environments in medical education.

We urge the LCME to reinstate Standard 3.3. In the interim, we call on medical schools to remain unwavering in their dedication to ensuring that we train physicians who are representative of the populations we serve, regardless of shifting accreditation standards. The SNMA will continue to champion health equity, advocate for underrepresented students, and fight to ensure that the next generation of physicians reflects the rich diversity of the nation we serve.