Dear Board Members,

On behalf of the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) and Arizona Psychiatric Society (APS), we are pleased to submit comments on the proposed edits to Article 2 (Licensure), Sections R4-16-201 and R4-16-201.1 related to MD licensure. Collectively, APS and ArMA represent more than 4,500 physicians across the state of Arizona.

Both ArMA and APS have previously communicated the importance of addressing the licensure questions to remove stigma from seeking mental health services and to encourage timely interventions for physicians, without fear of repercussion during initial licensure or renewal. We applaud the AMB for the due diligence and thorough process they employed to consider this issue.

**Our physician associations strongly support the recommended changes in language.** The revised language promotes the goals of the recent guidelines of the Federation of State Medical Boards, recommending using language only requiring an applicant to disclose a known current condition which impairs their ability to practice safely. We believe this proposed language will help send a message to the physician community that our Medical Board supports seeking timely mental health treatment.

Thank you again for your work on this important issue – and for your consideration of our comments via this letter. Our sincere thanks to the Board, the Physician’s Health Committee, and all contributing staff for being a leader in destigmatizing mental health treatment and in promoting physicians to seek care when needed. Your actions have the potential to save lives.

Sincerely,

Jasleen Chhatwal, MBBS, MD
President, Arizona Psychiatric Society

Miriam K. Anand, MD
President, Arizona Medical Association