

**MOA MEMBERS
FROM SUE A. WEINGARTNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JUNE 18, 2009**

TENNESSEE POSITION REGARDING BOARD CERTIFICATION

The Tennessee Optometric Association's position regarding Board Certification is below. Bottom line:

“After meeting last week to discuss the reactions for the local societies and the results of the survey, the TOA Officers and Trustees voted to represent the wishes of the majority of the membership and voice TOA's opposition to the Board Certification proposal in its current form or with any amendments that may be added on the floor of the House of Delegates. The Board also thought it appropriate to make this announcement prior to the AOA House of Delegates meeting where this proposal will be considered. The TOA has always been a leader in advancing the profession of optometry. However, we feel there are far too many unanswered questions at this time on the implementation of board certification and its ultimate impact on our profession. It is our hope there will be more study on the subject in the days to come.”



June 16, 2009

TO: State, Regional & National: President(s); Board of Directors & Trustees

FROM: Steve Malone, O.D.
President, Tennessee Optometric Association

RE: AOA JBCPT Board Certification Proposal

The Tennessee Optometric Association's Officers and Trustees have worked diligently to make certain TOA's membership remains informed regarding the AOA Joint Board Certifications Project Team (JBCPT) proposal on board certification. The Officers and Trustees met on two different occasions to view AOA's video presentations and discuss the board certification proposal prior to officers and trustees presenting the proposal to their respective societies and reporting back to the full TOA Board. It was reported that

there was much discussion to the pros and cons of the proposal and in the end 90 % of the local societies voted against supporting this proposal. In addition to the local society presentations, a survey was sent to the TOA membership for the purpose of affording each TOA member the opportunity to express his or her opinion and concerns regarding the board certification proposal. Each member was asked to visit the AOA website for the latest version of the proposal prior to completing the survey. After giving the membership a 3 week response time, the survey results indicated that 79% of the members who responded do not support the proposed board certification in the form presented by AOA's JBCPT.

After meeting last week to discuss the reactions for the local societies and the results of the survey, the TOA Officers and Trustees voted to represent the wishes of the majority of the membership and voice TOA's opposition to the Board Certification proposal in its current form or with any amendments that may be added on the floor of the House of Delegates. The Board also thought it appropriate to make this announcement prior to the AOA House of Delegates meeting where this proposal will be considered. The TOA has always been a leader in advancing the profession of optometry. However, we feel there are far too many unanswered questions at this time on the implementation of board certification and its ultimate impact on our profession. It is our hope there will be more study on the subject in the days to come.

The leadership of the TOA would like to thank those members of the JBCPT project team for their hard work on this issue.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Steve Malone, O.D. Paul Mormon, O.D. Brad Lindsey, O.D. David Talley, O.D. Gary Odom Bridget Jones
President President-Elect Past-President Secretary-Treasurer Executive Director Associate Director

*2727 Bransford Avenue * Nashville, Tennessee 37204 * Phone 615-269-9092 * Fax 615-269-5986 * www.toaonline.org*