



Applied Medical Physics In Radiology, Inc.

Leonard M. Borrelli, MS

5796 Van Buren Rd

New Franklin, Ohio 44216

Ohio Legislature

Subject: Concerns Regarding New Board Certification Requirement for
Certified Radiation Experts

Dear Ohio Department of Health,

I am writing to express my concern about the new law requiring board certification for all CRE's in Ohio. While I fully support the Department's mission to ensure the highest standards of safety and quality in radiation services, I believe this new requirement places an unnecessary hardship on long-serving, experienced professionals who have been certified and practicing competently for decades.

I have worked as a certified radiation expert in Ohio for Nearly 18 years. Throughout that time, I have maintained all required continuing education, upheld rigorous professional standards, and contributed to the safety and effectiveness of radiation safety practices across our state. The newly mandated board exam, however, was not part of the original certification process, and retroactively imposing this requirement disregards the extensive experience and proven competency of established Medical Physicists.

This change could unintentionally disenfranchise many qualified experts, reduce the available workforce, and disrupt services across hospitals, clinics, and other facilities that rely on experienced radiation professionals.

I respectfully urge the Ohio lawmakers to consider implementing a grandfather clause for currently certified and practicing CRE's. Such a provision would maintain the Department's commitment to safety and excellence while recognizing and preserving the expertise of long-standing professionals who have served Ohio faithfully for many years.

I would go on to say that the process of becoming a board-certified Medical Physicist in today's world is as follows:

1. Obtain an undergraduate degree in Biomedical Engineering (typically takes 4-5 years and is among the top 5 most difficult degrees to obtain).
2. If you maintained a 3.3 or higher in your undergraduate degree you might get into an accredited Medical Physics master's program which there are only a handful across the country (Cleveland State, just stopped there's due to lack of funding so one less).
3. Once you've completed your 2 years master's program and maintained a 3.2 or higher you might have a shot at getting into one of the few (less than 10 I'm aware of) two-year residency programs in the country.
4. Once you've completed 1 year of residency you can start the 3-part board exam which takes 2-3 years to complete. Hopefully, you don't fail the first part in which you have to wait until year two to retake because the ABR board exam is only offered once a year.

I'm trying to show you that to become a Board-Certified Medical Physicist is a minimum of 9-10 years. There are not enough residency programs in the country to handle the students, which is now a prerequisite for taking the ABR board exam. That is why many of us have not gone back to take it. I know firsthand as my daughter is in year two of her Medical Physics

residency at University Hospitals in Cleveland. She was the only University of Akron Biomedical Engineering student in her class of 50 to pursue Medical Physics. It is a very niche occupation and one in which no one is trying to obtain. One could become a physician in less time.

Please consider the lack of qualified medical physicists in the State to begin with, I believe I am the only one listed in Summit County. Then consider the lack of board-certified Medical Physicist in the State before making this law. Also, you would usher in out of state physics company's to come in and fill the void and taking those tax dollars back to their home states.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued efforts to support both patient safety and professional integrity in our field.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Borrelli, MS". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Leonard Borrelli, MS

Certified Radiation Expert #276

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lenny@amprinc.com 330-608-0651