

June 16, 2022

The Honorable Ron Johnson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johnson,

Thank you for your letter of June 15, 2022 inviting me and members of our Credentials and Certification Committee to meet with you and Dr. Peter McCullough in a public forum. For the reasons discussed below, we must respectfully decline.

The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) is the largest certifying board in the country, and we are proud to count more than 200,000 internists and internal medicine subspecialists amongst those who hold our certificate. All of them have demonstrated the knowledge, skills and attitudes essential for excellent patient care. More than a quarter of all physicians practicing in the United States are certified by ABIM, and many of your constituents have likely entrusted their care to an ABIM-certified physician.

Board certification is a way for patients, hospitals and health systems to know their physician has successfully completed their training and has demonstrated they are keeping their medical knowledge current. Especially during times like the COVID-19 pandemic, when medical knowledge is evolving and the public is looking for guidance, patients rely on board certified physicians as trusted voices they can look to for accurate, evidence-based information.

ABIM has well-developed and detailed policies and procedures governing how certification can be earned – and under what circumstances it may be lost. Those policies are publicly available on our website and are designed to protect the integrity and value of the credential even as they afford ample process to assure fairness to all physicians.

I particularly invite you – and any of your constituents – to read our policies against the dissemination of false or inaccurate medical information, and setting forth our disciplinary sanction and appeal procedures. Those procedures provide a robust, confidential process that gives physicians opportunities to respond to notices of potential sanctions in clearly defined ways, with the assistance of counsel if they so choose – including through written submissions and, should the process progress to the appeal stage, the ability to meet with a panel of peer physicians who are not members of ABIM staff.

It is in the spirit of fairness and confidentiality that I must decline your invitation for a public meeting, as I would for any that I would receive related to specific concerns about any physician certified by ABIM. Public discussion would, at this point, undermine the confidential process that is afforded to all ABIM-certified physicians.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Baron, MD, MACP
President and CEO
American Board of Internal Medicine

Richard J. Baron, MD
*President
Chief Executive Officer*

ABIM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Yul Ejnes, MD
Chair

Rajeev Jain, MD
Chair-Elect

Robert O. Roswell, MD
Secretary

Sonia A. Madison, MS
Treasurer

Vineet Arora, MD

M. Safwan Badr, MD

Roger W. Bush, MD

Carladenise A. Edwards, PhD

Alicia Fernandez, MD

Marianne M. Green, MD

C. Seth Landefeld, MD

Robert D. Siegel, MD