

Good day Senator Looney, Representative Janowski, Senator Fasano, Representative Camillo and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee. My name is Eric Hodgson and it is an honor and privilege to be appointed to serve on the Connecticut Medical Examining Board by Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

I want to first express my sincere thanks to this committee for the opportunity to appear before you to speak to my desire to serve on the Connecticut Medical Examining Board. As you may recall, I met with this committee last year for a similar confirmation hearing. Unfortunately, as a person in a solo private practice, I was in a situation in the past year where I did not have any reliable coverage in the event that a patient was having a medical problem and was unable to attend three meetings of the CMEB, *which entailed my statutory removal*. Serving on the CMEB is an important job *and my removal was unfortunate*. I have made the necessary provisions to ensure that I am without clinical responsibilities on the days of CMEB meetings so that I can be an active and involved CMEB participant.

Although I was not born in Connecticut, I have chosen to make Connecticut my permanent home. I grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in a typical working-class family. Through hard work I excelled in school and was fortunate enough to be awarded a scholarship to Bucknell University. As the grandson of coal miners, I was the first person in my family to have the opportunity to attend college. At Bucknell, I majored in music and pre-med biology and became very involved in leadership activities, particularly as the coordinator of the New Student Orientation.

After college graduation, I worked for two years as an HIV case manager in a community-based HIV clinic in Baltimore Maryland. I then began medical school at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. During medical school, I became very involved in the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), the oldest and largest organization of physicians in training. I held numerous leadership positions within this organization and eventually became the National President. It was during my work with AMSA when I served as the medical student member on the National Board of Medical Examiners that I had my first exposure to the world of medical licensing.

I did my four-year OB/GYN residency at Yale-New Haven hospital and then stayed and did my three-year Maternal-Fetal-Medicine fellowship at Yale School of Medicine. During this time, I became very active in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) as a Junior Fellow leader. I eventually became the national representative for OB/GYN residents and fellows on the National ACOG Executive Board.

I spent the next two years after MFM fellowship doing a medical leadership/research fellowship with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program at Yale. During that time, I had the opportunity to work for six months with Dr. Jewel Mullen, CT Commissioner of Public Health. During that time, I did a comprehensive examination of the process by which the DPH and the CMEB investigate, adjudicate, and discipline physicians to suggest changes that could make the process more

efficient. This work culminated in a report entitled "Improving the Effectiveness of the Connecticut Medical Examining Board (CMEB) and the Department of Public Health (DPH) with Investigating, Adjudicating and Disciplining Physicians." Many of the recommendations, including increasing the number of members on the CMEB, were accepted and turned into law.

At the present time, I work as a doctor of Maternal-Fetal Medicine where I see patient's in the private practice setting in New London. I am currently a Board Certified OB/GYN and will be taking my MFM Boards in April of next year. I also serve as perinatal safety officer for L+M Hospital.

It is a tremendous honor to serve on the CMEB. The CMEB serves a vital function to protect the public from wrong-doing physicians while also ensuring a fair and open process for the involved physicians. Through my work with the Department of Public Health as both a physician consultant and as an Intern with Dr. Mullen, I have a comprehensive understanding of the finer points of the investigation and adjudication process used in Connecticut to discipline wrong-doing physicians. I have the unique perspective of a person who has seen the process from the viewpoint of both the Department of Public Health and the CMEB and hope to assist in the ongoing process to streamline and improve the entire physician investigation and disciplinary process.

In closing, it would be an honor to as a member of the Connecticut Medical Examining Board. I have a long history of service to my profession and to the community. My experience and training as a high risk obstetrician will enhance the knowledge base of the CMEB. I have spent many hours considering the current way the DPH and the CMEB function and I believe I bring a unique perspective and viewpoint that may foster improvements in the way the DPH and the CMEB work together to protect the public. I have made the necessary changes to my clinical schedule in order to ensure my active participation in all CMEB meetings.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to meet with you today.

Sincerely,
Eric J. Hodgson, MD, MHS