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August 3, 2020

Mac Warner, The Honorable Secretary of State
Secretary of State's Office - Administrative Law
Bldg 1, Suite 157-K
1900 Kanawha Blvd E
Charleston, WV 25305

Re: West Virginia Board of Dentistry
Temporary Suspension of W. Va. Code R. §§ 5-11-3.6(b) and 5-11-3.7(b)

Dear Secretary of State Warner:

The Honorable Governor of the State of West Virginia, Jim Justice, has declared a State of Emergency to address the emergency created by the worldwide coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In a Proclamation issued March 16, 2020, the Governor delegated to "all state agencies the ability to suspend rules, if strict compliance therewith would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency."

The West Virginia Board of Dentistry ("Board") is actively monitoring the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board is dedicated to fulfilling its primary mission of protecting the public during this time, while continuing to ensure that West Virginia has the workforce it needs to treat and care for dental patients throughout the State.

At its meeting held July 24, 2020, and pursuant to the Governor's Proclamation, the Board voted to temporarily suspend its rule requiring a basic life support course to be completed in-person and its rule limiting the number of continuing education ("CE") hours that may be obtained by supervised self-instruction, W. Va. Code R. §§ 5-11-3.6(b) and 5-11-3.7(b). The suspension of these

rules applies only during the declared State of Emergency.


Therefore, a licensee of the Board may complete the required basic life support course via the internet or other electronic means and may complete all required CE hours via supervised self-instruction. The Board finds it necessary and appropriate to temporarily suspend these rules in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

In communicating this decision to its licensees, the Board will note that the remaining provisions of W. Va. Code R. § 5-11-1 et seq. are unaffected and still apply. The Board will issue to licensees any further guidance or instructions deemed necessary.

The Board would respectfully request that the Secretary of State's Office accept this correspondence as notice of the temporary suspension of W. Va. Code R. §§ 5-11-3.6(b) and 5-11-3.7(b) and post a copy of this correspondence on its website.

Should you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact the Board's office by telephone, (304) 252-8266, or by email, Susan.M.Combs@wv.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan M. Combs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Susan M. Combs
Executive Director
West Virginia Board of Dentistry