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Policy Conformance Exception.

Exception Requests. Any component may apply in writing to the Secretary for an exception from the requirement to comply with a Public Policy or Position Statement. The Secretary may grant such a request only if the component demonstrates that conditions unique to the component prevent compliance, compliance will pose an unreasonable hardship to the component or its members, or compliance would create or facilitate a condition more disadvantageous to the interests of the profession than compliance.

Contents of Exception Request. A request for exception must state the Public Policy or Position Statement that applies, the efforts undertaken by the component to conform to the policy or position, the conditions that prevent or will prevent compliance or that make compliance counterproductive, and the efforts undertaken by the component to alter those conditions.

Secretary's Response. The Secretary shall respond within thirty (30) days in one of the following ways:

- Grant the request, with or without conditions;
- Reject the request;
- Acknowledge receipt and state when a decision will be made;
- Request additional information and provide a timetable for decision; or
- Acknowledge receipt and initiate an investigation into the basis for the request.

Appeal from Secretary's Decision. Once the Secretary decides on a request for an exception, a component that is dissatisfied with the decision may appeal to the Board. The Board, by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, may modify or reverse the Secretary's decision.