

December 8, 2016

Mr. Chairman, I'm Constantine Kotsanis, MD a Board certified physician in Grapevine, Texas since 1983 and a volunteer assistant clinical professor at UT Southwestern Medical School from 1985 to 2006.

I am here to oppose the medical Board in its current form and am also opposing joining the licensure compact.

Contrary to what the Board tells you, they are not here to protect the public. Any innovative doctors, especially patient advocates are often harassed or severely punished.

The board has changed for the worse in the past 10 years by denying citizens integrative care and punishing doctors that provide it.

I have had 4 personal experiences that speak to this change.

1) No patient harm. 25 years ago I treated a patient in the ER. The patient's son reported me to the Board because I did not accept the patient's insurance for payment. A Board MD member called

me on the phone and once I explained what happened, the case was dismissed by the Board member on the phone as frivolous. No lawyers were involved, money lost or resources wasted. That was then. But how about now.

2) No patient complaint or harm. In 2009 I was accused of false advertising for saying that “nutrition may help autistic children”. This case was dismissed with no sanctions because there were no adverse findings.

3) No patient complaint or harm. This was an identical complaint as case two but this time TMB asked a fine of \$500.00 for false advertising. Twenty Harvard pediatricians that same year published an article in support of my claims.

4) No patient complaint or harm. Three years ago, a fired employee filed a vague complaint about a cancer patient. The board expert falsely stated that I practiced below the standard of care despite the fact the record did not support the allegation. In April 2015 at the ISC I was told to stop seeing cancer patients without explanation. There were no restrictions or sanctions placed on my license. My

attorney fought this and to date I have spent over \$200K to defend myself. In January 2016 in a mediation the case was dismissed without any sanctions. In March 2016, this case was re-opened for further investigation for no reason. Mr. Chairman isn't this double jeopardy?

Last week the case was finally dismissed with the Board claiming a mutual agreement. I am glad it was dismissed but I did not participate nor was I asked to agree to any terms. No findings, no sanctions.

This erratic behavior of the TMB the past 10 years is not rational, legal or ethical.

Recommendations: As an integrative physician I demand several seats on the Texas Medical Board for integrative doctors OR to create a sub-board of Integrative Medicine similar to the existing sub-board of Acupuncture. Thank you.
