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John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd
President & Chief Executive Officer
National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, Inc.

Dear Dr. Gimpel,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding resuming testing for COMLEX Level 2-PE examination at the testing centers in Chicago and Conshohocken in the midst of a global pandemic. Like other medical schools across the nation, Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OSU-COM) has adopted COVID-19 related travel policies and guidelines to protect the health and safety of our students, patients, faculty and staff. In the interest of student and public health, we are writing to recommend that NBOME consider either suspending the administering of COMLEX Level 2-PE examination until March 1, 2021, or establishing regional testing centers to serve students from a designated consortium of schools.

Under the guidance of recommendations put forth by the Coalition for Physician Accountability, OSU-COM has restricted away rotations for all medical students. We have also mandated that OMS-IV students complete their auditions within the state of Oklahoma. While a number of our students are disappointed that OSU-COM has implemented strict student travel restrictions, they appreciate that as future healthcare leaders, they must comport themselves in a manner that helps reduce the risk of them potentially contracting a virus that has no vaccine and no evidence-based treatment protocol and transmitting it to their patients, fellow students, loved ones and community. We strongly urge NBOME to reassess its current position on administering in-person COMLEX Level 2-PE examination at its testing centers in Chicago and Conshohocken and adopt temporary COMLEX Level 2-PE examination testing policies that reflect the gravity of this public health crisis.

Like NBOME, OSU-COM is committed to upholding reliable and standardized measures of clinical skills for licensure and to advancing the principles of osteopathic medicine. We stand ready to collaborate with NBOME in any way to ensure student success while concomitantly promoting student health during these challenging times for our nation. Should you have any questions or would like to schedule a conference call, please let us know. We appreciate the opportunity to voice our concerns with you.

Sincerely,

Kayse M. Shrum, DO, FACOP
Dean, OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine

Dennis Blankenship, DO, FACOEP
Interim Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs