

April 13, 2021

Vincent P. Mathews, MD
President, ABR
American Board of Radiology
5441 E. William Circle
Tucson, AZ 85711-7412

Dear Dr. Mathews:

Thank you for inviting input from RSNA regarding ABR's proposed policy for parental/caregiver/medical leave in response to ABMS' requirement that member boards must have written policies by July 1 that clearly state the training requirements for candidates to become eligible for initial certification. We commend ABR for its open process to solicit input on this important issue that impacts RSNA members and the future of the profession. As part of our commitment to inclusion, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on policies that have the potential to impact the diversity of residents and the desirability of radiology as a specialty.

RSNA supports ABR's recently released proposal, which, in essence, would allow for up to 12 weeks of parental/caregiver/medical leave without necessitating an extension of residency training. As we understand the most recent proposal, by allowing an average of up to 7 weeks per year over the course of the four-year residency training period, residents, as an example, would have the flexibility to take four weeks of vacation per year, plus a 12-week parental/caregiver/medical leave over the length of the training period. We understand that this policy relates only to eligibility for initial certification and does not dictate policies at the local institutional or program level.

Residents are the future of the profession. RSNA supports measures to enable a qualified and diverse pipeline of radiologists to care for our patients. We appreciate ABR's efforts toward achieving the important balance of physician wellness and ensuring competency within the field, while embracing policies that support diversity and inclusion.

Sincerely,



Matthew A. Mauro, MD
RSNA, Chair of the Board

cc: Brent Wagner, MD, MBA, Executive Director, ABR
RSNA Board of Directors
Mark G. Watson, Executive Director, RSNA

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