



OCT 10 2012

Michael A. Carome, M.D.
Deputy Director
Public Citizen
1600 20th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Dr. Carome:

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary dated September 27, 2012 concerning professional society reporting to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB). Your letter was referred to the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions for response.

We are not aware of any recent complaints regarding the NPDB policies relating to professional society reporting. However, as we work through our reporting compliance activities, staff will review the issue of the voluntary surrendering of professional society membership by physicians while under formal peer-review investigation and determine if the policy stated in the 1993 letters between HHS General Counsel and the American Psychiatric Association require revision.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with us and your dedication to improving the delivery of health care and patient safety. An identical copy of this letter has been sent to Mr. Levine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Heinrich".

Janet Heinrich, Dr.P.H., R.N.
Associate Administrator