

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: January 29, 2025
ATTENTION: Members, Medical Board of California
SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action on Board Members'
Legislative Proposals
STAFF CONTACT: Aaron Bone, Chief of Legislation and Public Affairs

REQUESTED ACTION

To consider legislative proposals raised by Members of the Medical Board of California (Board).

BACKGROUND

This item was added to the February 13-14, 2025, Board meeting agenda so that individual Board Members may propose, and the Board may collectively consider, possible statutory changes. If approved by the Board, legislative proposals may be analyzed by Board staff and placed on a future Board meeting agenda for discussion and possible Board action.

ANALYSIS

A staff analysis will not be provided for this agenda item.

Attachment 1

**Received from
Board Member
TJ Watkins
February 9, 2025**

Dear Board Members and Staff,

I request that we vote to include the requirement to post and summarize complaint information on Breeze in the proposed 2025 legislation. Our sister board, the Contractors State License Board (CSLB), is already required to inform the public about every complaint they accept by posting a notification and summary on Breeze.

For the past two years, I have requested that this requirement be included in proposed legislation, and I am grateful to have finally been given the opportunity to bring it to the forefront. Now I need your help to create a safety tool that will directly empower the public to make informed decisions about their physicians.

The Board currently takes as long as three years before an accusation is filed, and only at that stage is a notice posted on the doctor's profile on the MBC website. In the interim, the public has no way of knowing that they could be exposed to possibly dangerous doctors, since there is no warning that a physician might have one or more complaints filed against them and is under investigation by the Board. To be clear, the vast majority of doctors will never be affected, but the public will be aware of doctors that are potentially dangerous.

Consider what happened to Natassia Louis, who went to visit Dr. Carlos Chacon for cosmetic surgery, unaware that he was under investigation for the death of a patient. Watch her story here: <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/san-diego-woman-claims-she-was-disfigured-by-plastic-surgeon-facing-murder-charge/3211089/>.

The problem is that Ms. Louis is not the only harmed patient who believed she had chosen a competent doctor. Many patients' lives have been negatively affected by doctors who were under investigation by the Board, but the information was hidden from them and they, too, became victims.

The purpose of the doctor search function is to allow the public to get accurate background information on a physician to help determine if a doctor is a safe choice. Today, that tool—even if used—is unreliable and incomplete. The website is ineffective as an awareness tool because it lulls patients into a false sense of security when choosing a doctor. A patient can look up a doctor and not know that the doctor has five current complaints filed against them because that information is not revealed on the site.

This request comes on behalf of the public, whose priority is to safeguard themselves and their families. The Board has a mandate to protect the public, and the public has a right to know whether their physician has one or more complaints filed against them. This transparency is already happening at CSLB per the California Business and Professions Code (B&P) § 7124.6.

In the past, some seated on the Board have been more concerned about doctor reputation than about patient safety. I believe that each of us can look at this proposal and wonder why this tool does not already exist, then commit to bringing it before the California legislature. This will cost nothing but the time and energy expended toward a worthy and imperative public initiative that will help restore public trust in MBC.

Please help California consumers protect themselves by giving them more accurate and timely information about potentially dangerous doctors. On behalf of the public we serve, I ask that we create a legislative proposal to post a notification and summary on a doctor's Breeze profile page each time a public complaint is filed against them.