

Joel W. Walker, M.D.

Date: 12/09/15

Suresh K. Gupta, M.D., Vice Chair
Disciplinary Panel B
Maryland State Board of Physicians
4201 Patterson Avenue, 4th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299

RE: Surrender of License to Practice Medicine
License Number: D69819
Case Number: 7715-0019

Dear Dr. Gupta and Members of Disciplinary Panel B:

Please be advised that I have decided to **SURRENDER** my license to practice medicine in the State of Maryland, License Number D69819, effective immediately. I understand that upon surrender of my license, I may not give medical advice or treatment to any individual, with or without compensation, and cannot prescribe medications or otherwise engage in the practice of medicine in the State of Maryland as it is defined in the Maryland Medical Practice Act (the "Act"), Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. II ("Health Occ. II"), §§ 14-101 *et seq.* (2014 Repl. Vol.) and other applicable laws. In other words, as of the effective date of this Letter of Surrender, I understand that the surrender of my license means that I am in the same position as an unlicensed individual in the State of Maryland.

I understand that this Letter of Surrender is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** and on Disciplinary Panel B's acceptance, becomes a **FINAL ORDER** of Disciplinary Panel B of the Maryland State Board of Physicians (the "Board").

I acknowledge that the Board initiated an investigation of my practice and on May 9, 2014, Disciplinary Panel B issued disciplinary charges against me under Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(3)(a)(ii) of the Act¹ and the Board's sexual misconduct regulations, found at Md. Code Regs. 10.32.17 *et seq.* Specifically, Disciplinary Panel B alleged that I was guilty of unprofessional conduct in the practice of medicine and violated the Board's sexual misconduct regulations when I entered into a sexual and social relationship with

¹ Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(3)(ii) has since been recodified without substantive change as Health Occ. II § 14-404(a)(3)(ii).

a female patient to whom I had provided psychiatric treatment and engaged in other boundary violations with her.

I resolved these disciplinary charges through entering into a Consent Order with Disciplinary Panel B, dated July 28, 2014 (the "Consent Order"), in which Disciplinary Panel B found that I violated Health Occ. § 14-404(a)(3)(a)(ii) of the Act and the Board's sexual misconduct regulations.

Pursuant to the Consent Order, Disciplinary Panel B suspended my Maryland medical license for one (1) year, commencing on August 1, 2014, subject to a series of terms and conditions, which included, *inter alia*, that I (a) enroll in the Maryland Professional Rehabilitation Program ("MPRP") and follow its treatment and monitoring program; and (b) enroll in and successfully complete a one-on-one tutorial in medical ethics. The Consent Order further provided that after the conclusion of the one-year suspension of licensure, Disciplinary Panel B would administratively terminate my suspension, if I fully complied with all terms and conditions of the suspension. The Consent Order provided that if Disciplinary Panel B terminated my suspension, it would place me on probation for a minimum period of three (3) years, subject to a series of probationary terms and conditions. **A copy of the Consent Order, dated July 28, 2014, is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Attachment One (1).**

I acknowledge, and the Board's investigation confirmed, that I: withdrew from the MPRP and therefore failed to comply with its treatment and monitoring program, in violation of the Consent Order; and failed to complete the one-on-one tutorial in medical ethics, in violation of the Consent Order. As a result, Disciplinary Panel B voted to charge me with violating the conditions that were set forth under the Consent Order.

I wish to make it clear that I have voluntarily, knowingly and freely chosen to submit this Letter of Surrender to avoid prosecution for violating the probationary conditions required under the Consent Order. I acknowledge that the Consent Order remains and will continue to be a valid Final Order of the Board. However, upon acceptance of the Letter of Surrender, I will not be required to comply with the conditions of the Consent Order as long as I do not have or possess a medical license in Maryland.

I understand that by executing this Letter of Surrender I am waiving any right to contest any charges in a hearing in conformity with the July 28, 2014, Consent Order. I acknowledge that if Disciplinary Panel B were to issue disciplinary charges in this case and the case proceeded to a hearing, it would have sufficient evidence to prove that I violated the conditions required under the Consent Order and that such charges shall be treated as proven.

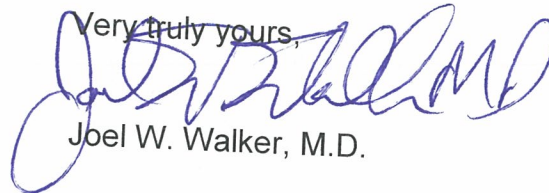
I understand that the Board will advise the Federation of State Medical Boards, the National Practitioner Data Bank, and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Databank of this Letter of Surrender, and in any response to any inquiry, that I have signed a Consent Order and surrendered my license as if it were revoked. I also

understand that in the event I would apply for a license in any form in any other state or jurisdiction, that this Letter of Surrender and the underlying investigative documents may be released or published by the Board to the same extent as a final order that would result from disciplinary action, pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-101 *et seq.* (2014), and that this Letter of Surrender is considered a disciplinary action by the Board.

I affirm that as of the date of this Letter of Surrender, I will present to the Board my original Maryland medical license number D69819 and my most recent wallet-sized renewal card. I acknowledge that on or before the date Disciplinary Panel B accepts this Letter of Surrender, I shall deliver to the Board: (1) any and all Medical Assistance prescription forms in my possession; (2) any prescription forms and pads in my possession; and (3) any prescription forms or pads on which my name and Drug Enforcement Administration number are imprinted. On or before the date Disciplinary Panel B accepts this Letter of Surrender, I shall also deliver to: the Maryland Division of Drug Control, 4201 Patterson Avenue, 1st Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21215, my Maryland Controlled Dangerous Substances Registration (# M69960, exp. date, March 31, 2016); and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, 200 St. Paul Place, Suite 2222, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, my Drug Enforcement Administration Certification Card (# BW8923573, exp. date, May 31, 2016).

I further recognize and agree that by submitting this Letter of Surrender, my license in Maryland will remain surrendered for a minimum of three (3) years pursuant to Md. Regs. Code 10.32.02.06B(2)(b)(2013) and until such time as I apply for reinstatement and comply with the terms and conditions set forth in this letter, those required under Md. Regs. Code 10.32.02.06B(2013), and those required under the Consent Order. In the event that if I apply for reinstatement of my Maryland medical license, I understand that Disciplinary Panel B or its successor is not required to grant reinstatement; and, if it does grant reinstatement, may impose terms and conditions in conformity with or in addition to those set forth in the July 28, 2014, Consent Order. I further understand that if I ever file a petition for reinstatement, I will approach Disciplinary Panel B or its successor in the same position as an individual whose license has been revoked. I also understand that if I apply for reinstatement, I bear the burden of demonstrating my professional competence and fitness to practice medicine to the satisfaction of Disciplinary Panel B or its successor.

I acknowledge that I may not rescind this Letter of Surrender in part or in its entirety for any reason whatsoever. Finally, I wish to make clear that I have been advised of my right to be represented by an attorney of my choice throughout proceedings before Disciplinary Panel B including the right to counsel with an attorney prior to signing this Letter of Surrender. I have knowingly and willfully waived my right to be represented by an attorney before signing this letter surrendering my license to practice medicine in Maryland. I understand both the nature of Disciplinary Panel B's actions and this Letter of Surrender fully. I acknowledge that I understand and comprehend the language, meaning and terms and effect of this Letter of Surrender. I make this decision knowingly and voluntarily.

Very truly yours,

Joel W. Walker, M.D.

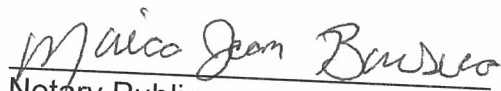
NOTARY

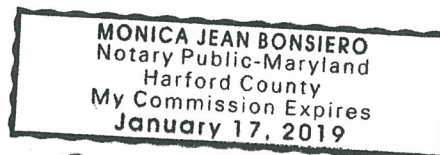
STATE OF Maryland

CITY/COUNTY OF Harford

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 9th day of December, 2015, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appear Joel W. Walker, M.D., and declared and affirmed under the penalties of perjury that signing the foregoing Letter of Surrender was his voluntary act and deed.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial seal.

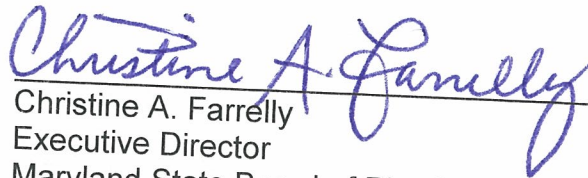

Notary Public



My Commission expires: January 17, 2019

ACCEPTANCE

On this 11th day of December, 2015, I, Christine A. Farrelly, Executive Director, on behalf of Disciplinary Panel B of the Maryland State Board of Physicians, accept Joel W. Walker, M.D.'s **PUBLIC SURRENDER** of his license to practice medicine in the State of Maryland.


Christine A. Farrelly
Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Physicians