

# ***THE ARMED FORCES OPTOMETRIC SOCIETY***

*SERVING FEDERAL SERVICE OPTOMETRISTS SINCE 1970*

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## ***AFOS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL POSITION ON THE JBCPT'S BOARD CERTIFICATION PROPOSAL***

As members are aware, the proposal for Optometric Board Certification as proposed by the Joint Board Certification Proposal Team (JBCPT) will undergo a vote in the AOA House of Delegates (HOD) Congress on June 24-28th in Washington, DC. AFOS HOD has a record 28 HOD votes, and through our membership will have a solid "voice" at the AOA HOD meeting.

AFOS leadership had been tasked with the responsibility to be knowledgeable and to review many sources/opinions on the pro's/con's about the proposal prior to coming to a consensus position. A highly valued source of input was via our memberships voice/on-line survey with comments provided to all Executive Council Members (results on [www.afos2020.org](http://www.afos2020.org)), with the data providing good insight into demographics/perceptions concerning the proposal.

On the most pertinent question (For vs. Against) the survey yielded a very consistent 70% "AGAINST" to the JBCPT's proposal and 30% "FOR" the proposal. This was consistent across the Navy, Air Force, Army, PHS, and VA.

AFOS Executive Council ultimately had the vote choices of: a) 100% Against, b) 100% For, and c) 70% Against/30% For (choice to vote accordingly to the survey results). Various Executive Council members took varying positions on the vote, with the overall votes of Executive Council members also falling in line with the members survey response of 70% Against / 30% For.

***AFOS will thus be entering the AOA HOD with the intention of voting our HOD votes as the following split vote: 70% AFOS HOD Votes "AGAINST", AND 30% AFOS HOD "FOR."***

The JBCPT & AOA advise organizations to not make a final decision on opposition to the proposal until the actual AOA HOD Discussion/Feedback/Changes during the actual AOA HOD session. The possibility of AFOS *CHANGING* its current position on our HOD votes exists; however, the logistics of not having all Executive Council Members present at the AOA HOD, and lack of ability for our members to provide the Executive Council feedback, create logistical issues/concerns for some of the Executive Council members regarding a last minute change in our HOD votes.

Our organization consists of arguably the finest group of optometrists and the Executive Council would like to thank our members for their valued input/responses on this proposal. Executive Council members believe in transparency and open debate, and welcome members to contact us regarding our individual positions, and provide us further feedback on the proposal.

Thank you.

AFOS Executive Council