STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

May 18, 2016

The Honorable Andy Biggs
President of the Senate
Arizona State Senate
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1443 (health profession regulatory boards)

Dear President Biggs:

Boards can serve an important role in protecting public health and safety, but in many ways, they lack accountability and transparency. While nominally part of the executive branch, in practice these boards operate independently, often outside of the line of sight, and lack appropriate oversight or checks and balances.

There is such a lack of accountability that we've relied on the press to uncover wrongdoings. Thanks to aggressive reporting in the media we've learned of significant problems that need to be addressed. But it shouldn't get to that point. There needs to be more oversight.

This bill doesn't do it. It's watered down and weak, and it would give protectors of the status quo the excuse to say we've done something, when we really haven't. I do not believe the best way to address needed reform at the board level is small, isolated changes that do not address the root of the problem. Additionally, I am disappointed that this bill fails to include reforms necessary to address recent Supreme Court precedent, which leaves the state vulnerable to antitrust liability and intrusion by the federal government.

It will likely rattle some of the incumbent special interests at the Capitol, but we must pass Legislation next session that aggressively addresses needed reforms of our boards and commissions, including increasing transparency, providing appropriate accountability, and protecting the state from liability. In the meantime, I have directed my staff to explore all other options at my disposal to shine a light on this dark corner of state government.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable David Gowan
The Honorable Nancy Barto
The Honorable Michele Reagan

1700 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007
602-542-4331 • www.azgovernor.gov