



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

October 24, 2016

Honorable Kenneth Darroux
Minister of Health
4th Floor, Government Headquarters
Kennedy Avenue
Roseau
Commonwealth of Dominica

Dear Dr. Darroux:

On September 19, 2016, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Ministry of Health and Social Security and the Dominica Medical Board on behalf of the Government of Dominica describing the current standards and processes used to accredit medical schools in your country.

The purpose of the NCFMEA's review was to determine the comparability of the country's medical accreditation system for Doctor of Medicine programs, or the equivalent, to the system used to accredit such programs in the United States (U.S.). Under U.S. law, accredited schools in a country that NCFMEA finds comparable may apply to participate in the U.S. William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) program. Then, if a medical school participates in the Direct Loan program, U.S. students attending the school may apply for Direct Loans to help cover educational expenses. For more information about foreign schools' participation in the Direct Loan program, access the Foreign School Information Web page at <http://ifap.ed.gov/ForeignSchoolInfo/ForeignSchoolInfo.html>.

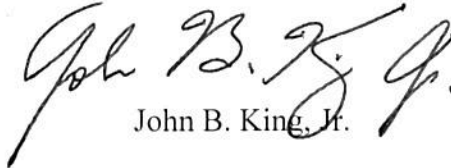
The NCFMEA reviewed the information submitted regarding the Dominica Medical Board's accreditation activities on behalf of the Government of Dominica for a redetermination of comparability. The NCFMEA wishes to thank Jennifer Astaphan, Dr. Dorian Shillingford, and Dr. Lindsey Henson for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding the Board's activities. Their testimony was very helpful, and the Committee valued their participation in the meeting.

The NCFMEA determined it needs additional information to make its decision regarding the comparability of the standards used by the Dominica Medical Board to accredit medical schools in Dominica. Therefore, the NCFMEA will defer its comparability determination until its spring 2018 meeting, pending receipt of the following specific information: 1) the attrition rate sorted by semester cohort; 2) the graduation rate sorted by semester cohort; and 3) the future plans of the Dominica Medical Board with respect to its accrediting activities of medical schools in Dominica. During the deferral, the NCFMEA's prior determination of comparability remains in effect.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact the Dominica Medical Board before the spring 2018 NCFMEA meeting regarding the preparation and submission of the material. If you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Jennifer Hong, NCFMEA Executive Director, at jennifer.hong@ed.gov or Patricia Howes, Committee Coordinator, at patricia.howes@ed.gov.

Thank you for providing the information regarding the country's accreditation of medical schools. We appreciate your ongoing interest in maintaining high-quality standards for medical education.

Sincerely,



John B. King, Jr.

cc: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Dominica Desk Office