[Date]

AHIMA: info@ahima.org

AHIMA Certifications Team: certification@ahima.org, recert@ahima.org

AHIMA Board Liaison for Ohio (through 12/31/23): dasantila.sherifi@ahimaboard.org

AHIMA Board Liaison for Ohio (starting 1/1/24): tonya.bates@ahimaboard.org

Dear AHIMA Leaders,

I am formally voicing my opposition to the new requirement that 40% of continuing education units must come directly from AHIMA. This change removes my choice in where I obtain continuing education to meet my re-credentialing needs. It overrides my individual rights as a dues-paying member and negatively impacts my choice in determining how to enhance my professional development. The change forces an unnecessary financial burden on me as well. It also reduces my Component Association (CA), OHIMA, to an uncertain future and diminishes their value.

OHIMA offers ‘*local access to professional education and networking*’ to promote member value in addition to membership retention and recruitment, network and community, career assistance, and advocacy. Their professional educational offerings are always of high quality and go above expectations. Additionally, the educational offerings provided by OHIMA often better meet my needs for continuing education both content wise and financially. OHIMA ensures topics at their events are relevant and timely, and the offerings are always priced at a level I can manage. The new requirement will force me to abandon OHIMA for education when my understanding was the purpose of the CA is to support me equally with AHIMA.

I am extremely disappointed with this AHIMA/CCHIIM requirement for recertification. Why was this not discussed with CA leaders and the House of Delegates prior to implementing? Why is my voice as a member not being heard when I know the OHIMA Board of Directors and Delegates are bringing it to AHIMA? Many of my peers are facing losing their credentials or cancelling their membership due to the lack of affordable and applicable education opportunities AHIMA has. We are being forced into what feels like a money grab and losing our invaluable local education and networking opportunities. In a review of the AHIMA store, the average CEU costs around $44 compared to OHIMA $25 (or less) which is a huge difference. The money isn’t the only issue though; the quality and content of AHIMA education is lacking. While there are abundant CEU opportunities from AHIMA for those working in acute care or coding roles, those in non-traditional roles or non-acute settings are left behind. We need opportunities that are pertinent for all HIM professionals. We tout ourselves as a field with many career roles, but this new 40% requirement forces many HIM professionals to rely too heavily only AHIMA's educational offerings.

On November 30th, OHIMA submitted a letter supporting the immediate removal of the 40% requirement, and I fervently support this recommendation. The 40% requirement significantly impacts me as a credentialed HIM professional, and I whole-heartedly disapprove of this change. I look forward to seeing AHIMA take swift action to better support its credentialed professionals in this matter.

Sincerely,

Your Name and Credentials