



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

November 20, 2017

Honorable Jarosław Gowin
Minister of Science and Higher Education
ul. Wspólna 1/3
Warsaw
Republic of Poland, 00-952

Dear Mr. Gowin:

On September 21, 2017, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met to evaluate the documents submitted by the Polish Ministry of Health submitted on behalf of the Government of Poland 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 accreditation standards and processes applied to medical schools in Poland, to the system used to accredit medical schools in the United States (U.S.). Under U.S. law, accredited medical schools in a country that NCFMEA deems 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 wishes to thank the Polish delegation for attending the meeting to provide additional information regarding Poland and the Polish Ministry of Health's accreditation activities. The representatives' testimony was very helpful, and the Committee valued their participation in the meeting.

The NCFMEA determined that the standards and processes used by the Polish Ministry of Health to accredit medical schools in Poland are comparable to those used to accredit medical schools in the United States. The NCFMEA further required an update report from the country in three years at the Committee's fall 2020 meeting regarding the graduation rates, USMLE Step One pass rates, and graduate medical education placement rates of U.S. medical students in Poland.

The U.S. Department of Education will contact the Polish Ministry of Health before the fall 2020 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy DeVos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betsy DeVos

cc: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Poland Desk Office