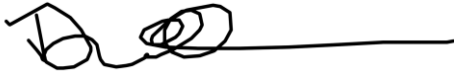





**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** Douglas E. Lentivech  


**SUBJECT:** Appointment to the Position of Executive Secretary, State Boards for Podiatry, Physical Therapy and Ophthalmic Dispensing

**DATE:** November 3 2016

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

**Issue for Decision**

Should the Regents approve the appointment of Thania F. Fernandez, as Executive Secretary to the State Boards for Podiatry, Physical Therapy and Ophthalmic Dispensing?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required by State statute.

**Proposed Handling**

This recommendation will come before the full Board of Regents at its Executive Session for discussion during the November 2016 Regents meeting. If approved in Executive Session, it will then come before the full Board for final action at the Board's Public Session in November 2016.

**Procedural History**

Education Law section 6508(7) requires the Board of Regents to appoint an Executive Secretary to each state board on recommendation of the Commissioner. The State professional boards advise and assist the Regents and the Department on matters of professional licensing and professional practice.

## **Background Information**

The New York State Education Department oversees the licensing and practice of over 2,500 Podiatrists, 22,000 Physical Therapists, 6,000 Physical Therapy Assistants, and 4,000 Ophthalmic Dispensers. The primary oversight of those functions falls under the direction of the Executive Secretary of the State Boards of Podiatry, Physical Therapy, and Ophthalmic Dispensing. Accordingly, an extensive search was undertaken to identify a strongly qualified candidate, and we are pleased to present Thania F. Fernandez for your consideration (a copy of her resume is attached).

Ms. Fernandez is a licensed attorney, who has served as an Assistant Counsel in the Office of the Professions for the last four years. In that role, she has provided legal guidance and assistance, drafted legal decisions, and worked closely with the Deputy Commissioner and the Executive Secretaries for various professions. Ms. Fernandez previously served as Assistant Counsel for the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, and the NYS Department of Health Bureau of Medicaid Law. She has also served as Deputy General Counsel and Legislative Counsel for the NYS Consumer Protection Board and as an Associate Counsel to the NYS Assembly. Ms. Fernandez's legal expertise and familiarity with the licensed professions will enable her to build on the Board of Regents' record of success in overseeing the work of the State Boards for Podiatry, Physical Therapy and Ophthalmic Dispensing and of the board office serving those State boards.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Thania F. Fernandez as the Executive Secretary to the State Boards for Podiatry, Physical Therapy and Ophthalmic Dispensing.

## **Timetable for Implementation**

If the Board of Regents approves the recommendation, the appointment will be effective November 16, 2016.