

DO NO HARM CHALLENGES TENNESSEE'S RACIAL QUOTAS FOR STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Nashville, TN; November 8, 2023: Today, Do No Harm, a prominent national nonprofit committed to safeguarding healthcare from radical and divisive ideology, filed a federal lawsuit against the unlawful racial quotas imposed on the governor of Tennessee when making appointments to state boards and commissions.

The Tennessee Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners requires one board member to be a racial minority, which has nothing to do with podiatry. A seat reserved for a racial minority opened in June 2023, and despite no shortage of qualified podiatrists in Tennessee, the governor has not made any appointments to the board.

“State medical boards are given important responsibilities to oversee the quality of care in their state and the safety of patients. It is crucial that they be the most qualified physicians available. Like all aspects of healthcare, patient safety and patient concerns should be primary, not the skin color or the racial makeup of any oversight committee,” Dr. Stanley Goldfarb, board chair of [Do No Harm](#).

“Tennessee law forces governor after governor to engage in racial discrimination when making appointments to state boards and commissions,” said Laura D’Agostino, an attorney with Pacific Legal Foundation who are bringing the suit pro-bono. “Using race to make appointments to government boards is not only demeaning and unconstitutional, but it undermines the distinctive spirit of the Volunteer State by precluding opportunities for Tennesseans to serve their local communities.”

Tennessee is far from the only state that uses immutable characteristics to limit opportunities for individuals to serve their state and local communities. A report released by PLF, [Public Service Denied](#), found that 25 states codify such unconstitutional discrimination.

The case is *Do No Harm v. William Lee* and was filed in U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee. Find additional information [here](#).

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Do No Harm, established in April 2022, has rapidly gained recognition and made significant strides in its mission to safeguard healthcare from ideological threats. With more than 5,000 members, including doctors, nurses, physicians, and concerned citizens across all 50 states and in 14 countries, DNH has achieved more than 4,900 media hits in top-tier publications and garnered widespread attention through numerous broadcast news appearances.