



Student International Federation of Chiropractors and Organizations

October 12, 2025

SIFCO R01 A Resolution Calling for the Abandonment of NBCE Part IV Exam

Table with 2 columns: Name and Role. Rows include Daniel Knowles (SIFCO President), Gabe Workman (SIFCO Vice President), Payton Griffin (SIFCO Secretary), Frances Hawkins (SIFCO Treasurer), Daylin Franklin (SIFCO Sherman), Richard Marshall (SIFCO Life), Matthew Shino (SIFCO Life West), Matteo Carlioz (SIFCO France), and Elia Toscanelli (SIFCO Madrid).

A Resolution Calling for the Abandonment of NBCE Part IV Exam

Resolution History

In 2025, the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) began construction to centralize the administration of Part IV examinations at a single site in Greeley, Colorado. This decision has raised significant concern among chiropractic students nationwide largely due to the increased travel, lodging, and related costs associated with this move. While it is understood that centralization

may reduce operational costs for the NBCE, it simultaneously imposes a greater financial and logistical burden on students, many of whom rely on loans to cover educational expenses.

The Student IFCO, representing chiropractic students around the world, has gathered feedback and concerns from its membership regarding this decision. A petition with over 2,600 signatures has also been submitted to the NBCE requesting reconsideration of the policy or, at minimum, to answer student concern.

Key concerns noted in the [petition](#) include:

1. *Outdated and Redundant Exam*: The Part IV Examination does not align with current trends in healthcare education, where ongoing competency-based assessments have replaced high-stakes practical exams.
2. *Unjustified Centralization*: Forcing students to travel to a single testing location creates significant financial and logistical hardships, particularly when more effective, program-based evaluations are already in place.
3. *Lack of Transparency*: Despite repeated requests from chiropractic colleges and other stakeholders, NBCE has not provided outcomes data to validate the necessity or effectiveness of Part IV, raising concerns about its relevance to public safety.
4. *Financial Ambiguity*: Students, as the primary contributors to NBCE operations, deserve a detailed breakdown of how their fees are allocated to ensure responsible stewardship of funds.

### **Resolution Summary**

This resolution expresses the formal position of Student IFCO in support of fair, transparent, and competency-based evaluation of chiropractic students through their academic institutions rather than through the NBCE's outdated Part IV examination. It calls on the NBCE to abandon the Part IV exam entirely and transition to reliance on program-based clinical competency assessments consistent with modern standards in other health professions.

**Whereas**, the NBCE claims to serve the chiropractic profession and its students with fairness and equity, and;

**Whereas**, centralizing Part IV testing in Greeley, Colorado imposes significant travel and financial burden on students from across the nation, and;

**Whereas**, many chiropractic students rely on loans to cover educational and professional examination expenses, and;

**Whereas**, reducing NBCE's operational costs by shifting financial burdens onto students conflicts with principles of accessibility and equity, and;

**Whereas**, transparency and communication from the NBCE is essential to maintain trust and accountability, and;

**Whereas**, over 2,600 stakeholders have signed a petition requesting reconsideration of this decision, and;

**Whereas**, the Part IV examination is redundant and is unnecessary given that accredited chiropractic programs already assess clinical competency prior to graduation, and;

**Whereas**, the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) Policy 56 links accreditation to participation in NBCE examinations, creating a structural dependency that perpetuates the Part IV requirement and must therefore be addressed in any plan to retire the exam.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Student International Federation of Chiropractors and Organizations, THAT:**

**Section 1:** Student IFCO formally calls upon the NBCE to abolish the Part IV examination in its entirety, recognizing that program-based assessments within accredited chiropractic colleges adequately measure clinical competency.

**Section 2:** Student IFCO calls upon the NBCE to provide a transparent explanation regarding the financial and logistical motivations for maintaining Part IV despite the absence of demonstrable validity or necessity.

**Section 3:** Student IFCO urges the NBCE to refund or reduce future student fees proportionate to the elimination of Part IV and to redirect resources toward supporting educational innovation, data transparency, and public accountability.

**Section 4:** Student IFCO urges the NBCE to collaborate with the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE), chiropractic colleges, and state licensing boards to ensure that the retirement of the Part IV examination is reflected in accreditation and licensure policies, including the decoupling of NBCE examinations from CCE Policy 56. This collaboration should establish a fair and transparent transition plan that recognizes program-based assessments as the standard measure of clinical competency, without imposing additional burdens on students.

**Section 5:** This resolution and Appendix A shall be shared with the NBCE Board of Directors, chiropractic colleges, and relevant organizations to promote awareness and collective advocacy for the full elimination of Part IV.

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**Vote Count:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Motion</b>	<b>Vote</b>
10/12/25	Passed	9-0-0