

SUBJECT: Opposition to Mandatory Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC)
SUBMITTED BY: Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians (MAOFP)
REFERRED TO: 2016 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP)
Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 10

- 1 WHEREAS, board recertification requirements are costly and require significant disruptions
2 in availability of the physician for patient care; and
- 3 WHEREAS, the direct and indirect costs of mandatory Osteopathic Continuous Certification
4 (OCC) are unprecedented in other businesses or healthcare professions; and
- 5 WHEREAS, there is no evidence that mandatory board recertification results in improvement
6 in patient care or clinical outcomes; and
- 7 WHEREAS, physicians may prefer independent lifelong learning and collaboration with
8 universities and specialty societies to define medical excellence within their
9 profession; and
- 10 WHEREAS, no current American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) policy
11 position opposes mandatory Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC); now,
12 therefore be it
- 13 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) opposes
14 mandatory Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) until such time as evidence-
15 based research demonstrates that OCC is linked to improved patient outcomes; and be
16 it further
- 17 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP continues to support lifelong specialty board certification; and be
18 it further
- 19 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP advocates against time-limited specialty medical board
20 certificates and discrimination against physicians who choose not to engage in
21 corporate re-certification programs; and be it further
- 22 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP acknowledges that the Osteopathic Continuous Certification
23 (OCC) is costly, time exhaustive and results in significant disruptions in availability of
24 the physician for patient care; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP encourages physicians to constantly strive to improve the quality
26 of patient care by the means they find most effective, supporting and advocating for
27 lifelong continuing medical education (CME); and be it further

28 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP engages in activities with the American Osteopathic Association
29 (AOA) and its osteopathic affiliate professional organizations to immediately cease all
30 efforts to support and to actively oppose the concept of Osteopathic Continuous
31 Certification (OCC) in both name and principle; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP works to have the AOA rescind its support of Osteopathic
33 Continuous Certification (OCC) within AOA Policy 647 (as amended via AOA Resolution
34 638) ¹; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted to the 2016 AOA House of Delegates for its
36 consideration.

ACTION _____

¹AOA Policy 647 (as amended via Resolution 638): The American Osteopathic Association (1) supports the development of state level maintenance of licensure (MOL) programs to demonstrate that osteopathic physicians are competent and provide quality care over the course of their career. Flexible pathways for achieving MOL should be maintained. The requirements for MOL should balance transparency with privacy protection and not be overly burdensome or costly to physicians or state licensing boards. (2) The AOA will continue to address and promote physician competency through the teaching of core competencies at the predoctoral and postdoctoral levels as well as ongoing physician assessment through Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) and the AOA Clinical Assessment Program (CAP) or its equivalent. (3) The AOA will continue to work with state osteopathic affiliates, the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners and other stakeholders to establish and implement MOL policies that promote patient safety and the delivery of high quality care.