

SUBJECT: Proposed Changes to Recertification

SUBMITTED BY: Robert S. Maurer, DO

REFERRED TO: 2016 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP)
Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 11

1 WHEREAS, board certification was always intended to be a one-time accomplishment
2 based upon completion of intensive training, clinical experience and study, followed
3 by an examination, and
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5 WHEREAS, board certification was always intended to be a lifetime achievement, just the
6 same as a diploma from a university or college of osteopathic medicine, and
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8 WHEREAS, over the past 20 years, recertification has insidiously become a requirement for
9 physicians, and
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11 WHEREAS, recertification has never been scientifically proven to be a measure of a
12 physician's competency, qualification, or standard of practice, and
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14 WHEREAS, recertification is burdensome, time consuming, and expensive, and
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16 WHEREAS, osteopathic physicians have been advised that American Osteopathic
17 Association (AOA) certification would no longer be viable if they failed to pay dues
18 or maintain membership in various osteopathic organizations, and
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20 WHEREAS, health maintenance organizations, hospitals, institutions, employer, insurance
21 companies, and state medical boards have begun to use recertification as a measure
22 of credentialing and as a means of interfering with a physician's right to continue to
23 practice good medical care for patients, and
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25 WHEREAS, recertification requirements have resulted in serious disruptions of physicians,
26 thus taking away valuable time from the care of patients and the physicians
27 personal lives, and
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29 WHEREAS, no other professionals who serve the public, such as school teachers, lawyers,
30 police officers, dentists, pharmacists, engineers, legislators, judges, accountants,
31 HMO executives, firefighters, and US presidents are subject to similar onerous and
32 overreaching requirements to practice their profession, and
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34 WHEREAS, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) is a non-profit, dues-paying
35 organization that was created to represent its physician members, not to add to the
36 burden of their professional practice; now, therefore be it
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38 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) request
39 the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) to immediately consider all board
40 certifications to be permanent and lifetime, and be it further

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42 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP requests the AOA to discontinue its current recertification
43 process in all areas of specialization, and be it further

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45 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP requests the AOA to commence a legislative initiative in all 50
46 states to prevent health maintenance organizations, state boards of medical
47 examiners, insurance companies, hospitals, institutions, colleges of osteopathic
48 medicine and allopathic medical schools, clinical practices, and all other physician
49 employers from requiring recertification as a method of physician credentialing,
50 and be it further

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52 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP requests that the AOA to do its best to work together with the
53 American Medical Association (AMA), to further this initiative; and be it further

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55 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP submits this resolution to the 2016 AOA House of Delegates,
56 with a report presented to the 2017 ACOFP Congress of Delegates.

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