

SUBJECT: Osteopathic Board Certification
SUBMITTED BY: ACOFP Board of Governors
REFERRED TO: 2018 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP)
Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 16

- 1 WHEREAS, the transition of residency accreditation by the American Osteopathic
2 Association (AOA) to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
3 (ACGME) is scheduled to be complete in 2020; and
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5 WHEREAS, residents in ACGME residencies will have a choice as to whether they become
6 board certified through the AOA or through the American Board of Medical Specialties
7 (ABMS); and
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9 WHEREAS, most residents and recently graduated physicians have accumulated substantial
10 financial debt related to their undergraduate medical education; and
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12 WHEREAS, the cost of certification, as well as the cost of future continuous certification
13 will be a major factor in influencing the residents' choice of certification pathway; and
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15 WHEREAS, osteopathic family physicians previously certified by the AOA through the
16 American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) may choose to limit their
17 practice to focused areas in osteopathic family medicine such as emergency medicine,
18 sports medicine, dermatology, academics, osteopathic manipulation, or others; and
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20 WHEREAS, a comprehensive cognitive examination in osteopathic family medicine may not
21 be clinically applicable to many physicians taking the AOBFP recertification exam due
22 to their chosen focused practices, and
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24 WHEREAS, the osteopathic family physician who is currently board certified by the AOBFP
25 now has the option to become certified by the American Board of Family Medicine
26 (ABFM); now, therefore be it
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28 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) supports
29 changes to the certification and recertification process that will make the American
30 Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) examination more attractive than
31 the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) examination by decreasing the

32 financial and administrative burdens for primary certification and recertification; and,
33 be it further

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35 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP calls on the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) to
36 empower the AOBFP to immediately develop and implement a certification and
37 examination process that will:

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- 39 1. Be cost competitive with the ABFM certification pathway,
- 40 2. Be offered at a lowered cost for the initial certification examination,
- 41 3. Be osteopathically focused, and
- 42 4. Eliminate the need for long distance travel; and, be it further

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44 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP calls on the AOA to empower the AOBFP to immediately
45 develop and implement a recertification process that will provide an ongoing, on-line,
46 flexible learning and examination to satisfy the requirements of Osteopathic
47 Continuing Certification Component 3 Cognitive Assessment and Component 4
48 Practice Performance Assessment; and, be it further

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50 RESOLVED, that the AOA be requested to give the AOBFP the necessary resources and
51 support to accomplish these changes by July 1, 2019; and, be it further

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53 RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted to the 2018 AOA House of Delegates.

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FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of MARCH 22, 2018