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Missouri State Medical Association

House of Delegates

Resolution #

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Introduced by: Helen Gelhot, M.D.

Subject: Opposition to Mandatory Maintenance of Certification (MOC)

Referred to: Reference Committee

1 Whereas, physicians are among the nation's most rigorously trained professionals; and
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3 Whereas, requirements for maintaining the skills needed to serve their patients vary greatly
4 depending upon their patient population and chosen set of treatments offered; and
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6 Whereas, no one is in a better position than the individual physician to determine how best
7 to maintain those needed skills; and
8 Whereas, other professionals such as lawyers are not subjected to mandatory recertification
9 requirements; and
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11 Whereas, certification requirements are costly and time-intensive, requiring significant
12 disruptions in availability of the physician for patient care; and
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14 Whereas, there is no evidence that mandatory recertification results in any improvement
15 in patient care; and
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17 Whereas, there are significant conflicts of interest in agencies approved to set the
18 requirements; and
19
20 Whereas, more than half of the highly qualified and respected faculty members of one of our
21 best universities failed the mandated recertification examination, without any evidence
22 that the problem was with the examinees rather than the examination; and
23
24 Whereas, constant externally imposed study requirements tend to enforce conformity
25 rather than encourage the independence of thought essential for professionals; and
26
27 Whereas, mandatory recertification is likely to reduce access to care by encouraging
28 retirement of great physicians who are providing excellent, much needed care taking

29 significant amounts of time away from patient care; and
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31 Whereas, failure rates for MOC have been as high as 40.9 % for one board; and
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33 Whereas, mandatory recertification empowers government and disenfranchises patients
34 and professionals; and
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36 Whereas, there is currently no existing Missouri State Medical Association (MSMA) policy
37 calling for opposition to mandatory MOC; therefore be it
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39 Resolved, That the MSMA opposes mandatory MOC, and encourages physicians to strive constantly
40 to improve their care of patients by the means they find most effective; and be it further
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42 Resolved, That the MSMA acknowledges that the certification requirements within the MOC
43 process are costly, time intensive and result in significant disruptions to the availability of physicians
44 for patient care; and be it further
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46 Resolved, That MSMA acknowledges and affirms the professionalism of individual physicians to
47 self-determine the best means and methods for maintenance of their knowledge and skills;
48 and be it further
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50 Resolved, That MSMA communicate to the American Medical Association (AMA) and American
51 Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) examples of disproportional fees and onerous time
52 requirements and be it further
53
54 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the AMA
55 House of Delegates for its consideration.