TEXAS MEDICINE--2017

AMA House Tackles Post-Election Health Reform Options

*By Steve Levine*

**MOC Again**

Recent House of Delegates meetings have reacted to physicians' extreme dissatisfaction with maintenance of certification (MOC) exams and the specialty boards that run them, with calls for increased transparency and reduced cost and time commitments. MOC opponents came back to the house demanding that AMA take a tougher stance. Delegates definitely moved in that direction. The house:

* Said MOC should not be mandatory for recredentialing, privileging, or insurance panel participation. That added to existing AMA policy that said MOC should not be required for licensure, credentialing, reimbursement, network participation, or employment.
* Directed AMA to advocate and develop model state legislation and model medical staff bylaws to ensure MOC "not be a requirement for: (1) medical staff membership, privileging, credentialing, or recredentialing; (2) insurance panel participation; or (3) state medical licensure." The TMA House of Delegates adopted similar policy in May 2016, based on a new law that recently passed in Oklahoma.
* After a long and contentious debate, told AMA to, before Dec. 31, 2016, "formally, directly, and openly ask the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) if they would allow an independent outside organization, representing ABIM physician stakeholders, to independently conduct an open audit of the finances of both the American Board of Internal Medicine, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization, and its Foundation."