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Testimony in Support of HB 273: Prohibit requiring physician to have maintenance of certification

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the House Health Committee:

We write today asking for your support of HB 273, which you will be considering in a hearing this coming Wednesday.

Physicians are increasingly diverted from patient care by requirements imposed without any proven benefit. One of the most egregious examples is "Maintenance of Certification®" (MOC®), a proprietary corporate-run program purportedly mandated to ensure doctors "remain current."

However studies demonstrate that there is no difference in the quality of care provided by physicians who participate in MOC vs. physicians who achieved the high standard of initial board certification.

Despite no proven benefit, the costs are staggering. Representative Mike Ritze, a physician and chair of the Oklahoma House Health Committee reports:

In fact, it is estimated MOC will cost the health system a jaw dropping \$5.7 billion over 10 years. And doctors aren't the only losers; MOC is stealing from patients. Physicians will spend 33 million hours on MOC activities away from patient care.

Please see Dr. Ritze's full comments here:

<http://www.changeboardrecert.com/documents/Represen.pdf>

Some ask, "what will replace MOC." Physicians will still be required to meet thorough continuing medical education standards. Ohio physicians are required to complete 100 hours of Continuing Medical Education every two years. HB 273 will NOT change this.

Others suggest that HB 273 would limit hospitals' ability to determine the caliber of its physician workforce. This is not true. MOC is an ineffective criteria for judging physician quality. HB 273 does not impair a hospital's ability to select physicians who have met the rigorous demands needed to achieve initial board certification. If hospitals are concerned about the qualifications of their patient care workforce, why are non-physicians increasingly providing medical care for patients in Ohio hospitals?

In addition, hospitals receive billions of dollars of taxpayer funds every year. The Ohio legislature has a responsibility to ensure that requirements imposed on the hospital workforce are not increasing costs without any benefit to patient care and that patients retain the ability to work with the physicians of their choice.

Another important consideration in support of this bill is the corruption being exposed within the corporations profiting from Maintenance of Certification mandates. By the end of 2015 the entities controlling MOC had amassed \$1 Billion in assets and pension funds. In 2015, the leadership and key employees of these organizations received \$50 million in executive compensation.

According to the Practicing Physicians of America (PPA) Fact Sheet:

Physician MOC® fees have funded luxury condominium purchases complete with chauffeur-driven town cars, health club memberships, Cayman Island retirement funds, first class and spousal travel for officers. ... Overspending and high officer salaries have forced Boards to increase physician fees 257% (17.2%/year) from 2000-2014 while generating over \$2 billion to the ABMS member boards.

Please see the PPA fact sheet: <http://www.medtees.com/content/ABMSFactSheet.pdf>

It's time to put a stop to this corruption and make sure patients are getting the face time with their physicians that quality care demands. One way to help is to pass HB 273. This bill simply prohibits mandates that require physicians to participate in MOC.

Thank you for considering this important measure. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Brad Banko, MD, MS

Association of American Physicians and Surgeons