



**Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom, Inc.**

PO Box 1236  
Hartsville, OH 44632

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October 10, 2017

**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 would prohibit Maintenance of Certification<sup>®</sup> (MOC<sup>®</sup>) from being used in determining physician licensure, reimbursement, employment, and granting of privileges.


Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom (OAMF) is an organization of citizens from all walks of life and all corners of the state. We are more than 3,700 strong and growing. Our mission is to protect and preserve medical freedom and informed consent for all Ohio citizens. Many of our members work in the health care field and include nurses, therapists, chiropractors, and physicians.

Informed consent can only be delivered with a robust physician-patient relationship. Requirements like those in MOC often purport to bring lots of benefit but in reality are unsupported by data. MOC appears to be a proprietary corporate-run program mandated to ensure doctors "remain current."

OAMF has been informed that studies have not shown significant difference in quality of care provided by physicians who participate in MOC vs. physicians achieving initial board certification. In addition to excessive expense involved, physicians would spend excessive time on MOC activities away from patient care.

Because Ohio physicians are required to complete 100 hours of Continuing Medical Education every two years, there is no need to impose specific industry-defined requirements that can cost the doctors a lot of money and do not allow doctors freedom in determining their own continuing education needs. HB 273 would NOT change the current continuing education requirements for physicians.

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 access to physicians of their choice.



According to the Practicing Physicians of America (PPA) Fact Sheet: Physician MOC fees have funded extravagant purchases by Board officers, while increasing the costs on physicians.<sup>1</sup> It is time to put a stop to this corruption and requirements that don't improve patient care. It is time to make sure that patients are getting the face time with their physicians that quality care demands and that physicians are able to direct their own continuing education. One way to help is to pass HB 273.

Thank you for considering this important measure. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Donna Kazee, Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.medtees.com/content/ABMSFactSheet.pdf>