

Testimony of Michelle Cotterman, RN
Proponent Testimony HB273
Health Committee
October 9, 2017

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the House Health Committee, I am writing today to ask your support of HB 273 and bring an end to Maintenance of Certification (MOC) mandates on physicians that interfere with patient care. Physicians are already required to take 100 hours of CME every two years and HB273 does not interfere with this. Advanced practice nurses and physician assistants are able to see, care for, and prescribe without having the added burden of MOC. It stands to reason that if these professions train for much shorter time than a physician and yet are capable of practicing without an MOC, that the presence of an MOC is not necessary for care of a patient.

MOC does not improve patient care, and only benefits private organizations w/ highly-paid staff who wield unnecessary and wasteful power over specialists. MOC requirements take away from patient care in that it requires additional time for the physician to acquire this certification without any added benefit.^{1 2}

As a consumer of physician services the presence of an ad hoc certification holds no value to me. What matters most to me, is my doctor's ability to care for me in a competent, timely and efficient manner, to treat me with respect and honor my personal beliefs. MOC applies irrelevant testing material that does not apply to many physician specialties and holds no value to consumers.³

Thank you for your time and I do hope you consider supporting HB273.

¹ Hayes J, et al. Association Between Physician Time-Unlimited vs Time-Limited Internal Medicine Board Certification and Ambulatory Patient Care Quality. JAMA. 2014;312(22):2358-2363. doi:10.1001/jama.2014.13992.

² Bradley G, et al. Association Between Imposition of a Maintenance of Certification Requirement and Ambulatory Care–Sensitive Hospitalizations and Health Care Costs. JAMA. 2014;312(22):2348-2357. doi:10.1001/jama.2014.12716

³ Cook DA, et al. Physician Attitudes About Maintenance of Certification: A Cross-Specialty National Survey. Mayo Clin Proc. 2016 Oct;91(10):1336-1345. doi: 10.1016/j.mayocp.2016.07.004.