



Ohio Children's Hospital Association
Saving, protecting and enhancing children's lives

Nick Lashutka
President and CEO, Ohio Children's Hospital Association
Testimony before Ohio House of Representatives Health Committee
HB 273 – As Introduced
Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Health Committee, my name is Nick Lashutka and I submitting written testimony in opposition of HB 273 as President & CEO of the Ohio Children's Hospital Association (OCHA).

Ohio has the world's best statewide network of children's hospitals – Akron Children's Hospital, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Dayton Children's Hospital, Nationwide Children's Hospital, UH/Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and ProMedica Toledo Children's Hospital. OCHA has one mission, and that mission is simple: save, protect and enhance the lives of our state's most precious asset – our children. Several of our institutions are ranked among U.S. News & World Report's best children's hospitals, and all our members are ranked best in class in the nation in various aspects of pediatric care and research.

All our members are members of the Ohio Hospital Association (OHA) and we partner very closely with OHA on issues affecting the hospital industry and specifically about policies affecting children's health and health care.

Ohio's children's hospitals are also significant employers. Our six hospitals employ more than 36,000 Ohioans – including 4,300 employed physicians – providing good paying, high quality jobs and serving as economic engines for our communities throughout Ohio. Our researchers and medical professionals are leading the nation in health care innovation, pediatric research, and quality and patient safety initiatives.

Our members believe in continuous lifelong learning for better patient care. Certification and maintenance of certification requires diplomates to demonstrate that they are keeping up to date with the latest medical information and "best practices" in their field and are working to improve the care they provide. While the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) guides the MOC process, AMBS 24 Member Board set the criteria and curriculum for each specialty. The four-part process for each specialty includes:

1. Professional Standing – Valid, unrestricted medical license in at least one state or jurisdiction in the United States, its territories, or Canada.
2. Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment – Evidence of participation in educational and self-assessment programs that meet specialty-specific standards set by their member board.
3. Cognitive Expertise – Pass Board-approved examination which verifies fundamental, practice-related and practice environment-related knowledge to provide quality care in their specialty.
4. Practice Performance Assessment – Evaluation of clinical practice according to specialty-specific standards for patient care.



Board certification and Maintenance of Certification are instrumental to the integrity of medical specialty care. While we recognize there is frustration among specific physician populations, we feel the MOC process should be improved upon within the medical community, based on recommendations for improvement from the physicians these boards serve. The vast majority of physicians see value in pursuing MOC, assuring pediatric patients and their families that certified pediatricians are actively working to stay up to date with the most current medical knowledge over the course of time that they practice medicine.

Additionally, we strongly feel hospitals should have the authority to create guidelines, based on input from medical leadership, that ensure the patients they serve receive the highest level of care. The proposed solution in HB 273 to address the conflict between a select group of medical professionals and their board certifying entities limits hospitals' ability as employers to determine the best standard of care within their institutions.

Ohio's children's hospitals are committed to improving quality of care to the millions of children we serve each year. Meeting the requirements of MOC is an assurance to excellence and influences better care. HB 273 would impose unnecessary restrictions on employers and ultimately decline hospitals' ability to improve quality. We urge the committee to avoid deteriorating hospitals' authority to set standards of care as it considers HB 273 and the MOC process. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Nick Lashutka
President & CEO
Ohio Children's Hospital Association