Whereas, A mandatory component of American Board of Medical Specialties Maintenance of Certification (ABMS MOC®) Program is the “Part 4 Improvement in Medical Practice”; and

Whereas, Non-grandfathered physicians are required to participate in these proprietary Part 4 quality improvement projects upon threat of losing board certification, and subsequent hospital privileges and insurance plan participation; and

Whereas, Innovative and relevant “quality improvement” projects take place daily in physician offices as part of our commitment to excellence, outside of ABMS MOC® mandates; and

Whereas, Quality improvement is not the proprietary product of ABMS MOC®; and

Whereas, Overwhelming physician opinion is that these proprietary ABMS MOC® projects are duplicative busywork with little application to patient care; and

Whereas, ABMS MOC® diverts time and resources from relevant medical research and quality improvement; and

Whereas, There is no data to suggest any difference in patient health outcomes from ABMS MOC® quality improvement projects versus quality improvement projects that do not grant ABMS MOC® credit; and

Whereas, Published data from these quality improvement projects are used by ABMS as proof, not of innovative physician efforts to improve patient outcomes, but as justification for the proprietary ABMS MOC® product to insurers, hospitals, and the Internal Revenue Service; and

Whereas, Physicians find themselves unwilling research subjects and their patient data used in the promotion of a proprietary educational product; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association call for an end to the mandatory American Board of Medical Specialties “Part 4 Improvement in Medical Practice” maintenance of certification requirement. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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See AMA Policies:
Maintenance of Certification H-275.924
Maintenance of Certification and Osteopathic Continuous Certification D-275.954