Whereas, The process of board certification has a central role in self-regulation of physician quality standards; and

Whereas, Each specialty has established non-profit organizations to administer this required evaluation to obtain and maintain board certification; and

Whereas, These organizations charge fees for the examination process that averages $110.00/year for family medicine to $610.00 per year for colon-rectal surgery; and

Whereas, The physicians taking the examination incur other costs such as review courses, travel expenses, and lost wages from their current practice; and

Whereas, Physician reimbursement has declined for many and further complicates the process involved in the cost of taking the exam; and

Whereas, The cumulative net assets of the various certifying organizations as stated in the reference below, is excessive and totals more than 584 million dollars (JAMA, August 1, 2017, Volume 318, #5: pages 477-479); therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association request reductions in Maintenance of Certification examination fees so as to work towards a balanced/neutral budget of ABMS medical boards given their status as non-profit organizations. (Directive to Take Action)