

Michele Nuzzi

Subject: FW: [State CEO] Statement on MOC from PAMED
Attachments: Statement of No Confidence in ABIM - Multiple organization Statement.pdf

From: Philip Schuh [<mailto:pschuh@mssny.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2016 8:32 AM
To: Michele Nuzzi
Subject: FW: [State CEO] Statement on MOC from PAMED

From: aamse-state-ceos@googlegroups.com [<mailto:aamse-state-ceos@googlegroups.com>] **On Behalf Of** Fraser, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2016 3:19 PM
To: 'Larry Light'
Cc: 'aamse-state-ceos@googlegroups.com'; 'Larry Light'
Subject: [State CEO] Statement on MOC from PAMED

Dear state EVPs -

Enclosed for your information and review is the formal statement from the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) making the official declaration of **No Confidence in the ABIM** and asking other organizations to formally express their support by “signing on” to the No Confidence document. Several of you have already signed on to it.

On behalf of our PAMED physician leaders of PAMED this is also a request that you share this document with the leadership of your state society and ask that they join in declaration of No Confidence in the ABIM.

If you do wish to sign on OR you have questions about this letter please contact Larry Light who is working on this issue with PAMED. His email is:

Larry Light <lighthouselobby@gmail.com>

Thanks,

Mike

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August 15, 2016

Joseph Maldonado, Jr., MD
President
Medical Society of the State of New York
865 Merrick Avenue
Westbury, NY 11590

Dear Dr. Maldonado:

At the recent meeting of the AMA House of Delegates, support for strong and positive action aimed at curtailing the irresponsible fiscal activities of the American Board of Internal Medicine and establishing a responsible process for physician recertification that is grounded in high-quality and appropriate continuing medical education was clearly gaining momentum among physicians nationwide. I am writing to you as a colleague and fellow state medical society president to seek your assistance in continuing to build on the progress that was so clearly evident.

Enclosed is the formal statement from the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) making the official declaration of **No Confidence in the ABIM** and asking other organizations to formally express their support by "signing on" to the No Confidence document. Several states have already signed on to it.

On behalf of our PAMED physician leaders, this is also a request that you share this document with the leadership of your state society and ask that they take affirmative action to join in the declaration of **No Confidence in the ABIM**.

If you do wish to sign on, or you have questions about this letter, please contact either me or Larry Light (who is working on this issue with PAMED). My email is stat@pamedsoc.org and Larry's email is lighthouselobby@gmail.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

Most sincerely,

Scott E. Shapiro, MD, FACC, FCPP
President

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Pennsylvania MEDICAL SOCIETY®

The undersigned organizations, representing physicians across the country, believe that the fundamental cornerstone of what it means to be a physician is three-fold: continual professional development, lifelong learning, and providing quality patient-care based on the best science and evidence to guide medical decision-making.

For years, physicians have repeatedly expressed their dissatisfaction in the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process. Letters have been written and numerous meetings have taken place with ABIM leadership for the purpose of expressing the high levels of dissatisfaction amongst physicians.

Physicians have attempted to work collaboratively to help the ABIM's leadership better understand that their punitive process is needlessly time consuming and takes physicians away from their patients. Physicians have demonstrated to the ABIM that the MOC process is exorbitantly and unnecessarily expensive compared to other continuing medical education activities through which medical knowledge and excellence in patient-care can be maintained and demonstrated. Most importantly, physicians have clearly expressed to the ABIM that the content and available medical resources of the secure, high-stakes computer exam bears little to no relevance to the care we render to our patients in our offices and hospitals.

During this time the ABIM has been unable to provide reliable independent evidence that a secure, high-stakes computer exam—taken every 10 years by some and for which others are "grandfathered" and therefore exempt—leads to better patient care. While the overwhelming majority of practicing physicians pass the ABIM recertification high-stakes computer exam, the test and the MOC process have no correlation to how well a doctor can take care of a patient.

Since issuing an apology for instituting their flawed MOC program, the ABIM's proposed changes to the process fails to demonstrate that their current leadership understands the messages being conveyed by practicing physicians; the proposed changes lack in both comprehensive scope and timely implementation.

It is for all of these reasons that we, the undersigned organizations, join the Pennsylvania Medical Society's position with a joint statement of NO CONFIDENCE in the Board of Directors the American Board of Internal Medicine. We believe that their current leadership is not capable of reforming the process in a timely, academically meaningful, and fiscally responsible way.

In keeping with the consensus of our members and physicians across the country, we call for the immediate replacement of the entire ABIM Board of Directors and leadership with new leadership, representative of physicians actively participating in the full-time practice of clinical medicine. The undersigned organizations would further offer to assist the ABIM and any of the ABIM subspecialties with the formation and transition to a new Board that is representative of and accountable to the physicians whom they will certify.

Our organizations are collectively committed to advocating for all our physicians on this important issue. We hope to see more meaningful progress in the coming weeks. We will explore every avenue to bring about meaningful MOC reform and will plan on keeping all our members informed on any progress made in our efforts.

[Insert organization names]

Pennsylvania Medical Society

Q.1.16


Philip Schuh

From: Arthur Fougner MD <artfougnermd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 09, 2016 12:09 PM
To: Philip Schuh; Malcolm Reid; Moe Auster
Subject: Fwd: Physicians Stand Up to Fight Recertification Scheme, Sue AOA

----- Forwarded message -----

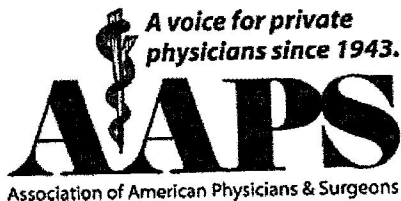
From: AAPS <aaps@aapsonline.org>
Date: Tue, Aug 9, 2016 at 12:01 PM
Subject: Physicians Stand Up to Fight Recertification Scheme, Sue AOA
To: artfougnermd@gmail.com

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Physicians Stand Up to Fight Recertification Scheme

On August 1st a group of osteopathic physicians—including AAPS member Craig M. Wax, DO—filed suit against the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) to recover millions of dollars in annual membership fees that the physicians have been forced to pay for years to the organization.

The money is paid as a condition of obtaining and maintaining board certification. The physicians—who have filed the suit as a class action—contend that tying AOA membership to board certification is illegal, has no reasonable connection to the certification, and violates antitrust laws.

Dr. Wax explains why he and his colleagues are taking on this David vs Goliath challenge: For two decades, the AOA has threatened osteopathic physicians with the ultimatum: no dues, no board certification. Our goal is to change this top down business-as-usual approach at the AOA. The AOA must champion osteopathic physicians and their patients, not the government and other third party payers. They must eliminate Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC/MOC) as it is burdensome, expensive, and subtracts from physicians' ability to treat their patients. Our suit is all about fairness and doing what's right for osteopathic physicians and the patients we serve.

Similarly, the ongoing AAPS suit against ABMS seeks a refund of fees paid by AAPS members to ABMS and its connected corporations.

Read More about the new lawsuit against the AOA:

- Read the complaint as filed at [the IP4PI blog](#).
- Sign up for alerts to receive updates about this suit: <https://ip4pi.wordpress.com>
- Class-action lawsuit filed against American Osteopathic Association over membership fees *Philadelphia Business Journal*, August 2, 2016
- Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine in Certification Dispute *Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 2, 2016
- Blog post by Dr. Wes: <http://drwes.blogspot.com/2016/08/class-action-lawsuit-filed-against.html>

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