



Dear colleagues,

NBPAS continues to grow with 4000 diplomats and over 40 hospitals accepting NBPAS certification as an alternative to ABMS. For a complete list of accepting hospitals, go to [NBPAS.org](http://NBPAS.org).

The anti-MOC “movement” got a boost at the 2016 AMA annual meeting in Chicago this June. At this meeting there was a great deal of discussion about MOC, in part led by the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) delegation which hosted a Maintenance of Certification (MOC) panel discussion. As part of that discussion, NBPAS board member Bonnie Weiner, MD spoke about the NBPAS alternative. Following the meeting, PAMED issued *a statement of no confidence in the ABIM's Board and leadership*.

Notably, at the AMA meeting the House of Delegates approved resolution 309 stating:

***"RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association call for the immediate end of any mandatory, secured recertifying examination by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or other certifying organizations as part of the recertification process for all those specialties that still require a secure, high-stakes recertification examination."***

This resolution comes on the heels of the Oklahoma state legislature passing a law this April highlights stating:

***“Nothing in the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act shall be construed as to require a physician to secure a Maintenance of Certification (MOC) as a condition of licensure,***

*reimbursement, employment or admitting privileges at a hospital in this state. For the purposes of this subsection, “Maintenance of Certification (MOC)” shall mean a continuing education program measuring core competencies in the practice of medicine and surgery and approved by a nationally recognized accrediting organization.”*

These events highlight the momentum building in this country to do away with MOC altogether. Several of the ABMS boards including the ABIM have recently announced an alternative to the Q10 year high stakes recertifying exam. While this is a welcome change, these boards replace the Q10 year exam with more frequent take home exams that many believe add little or nothing to patient care and do not change the appearance of economic motivation by the member boards. For example, with 200,000 diplomats, at \$250 per year, the ABIM will see \$50M in annual revenue from MOC.

This is NOT the time to let up on the grass roots anti-MOC movement. We are all busy, hardworking physicians. **Please take the time to spread the word.** We are making progress but continue to need your help. **Many resources including sample letters and PowerPoint presentations and News are available at [NBPAS.org](http://NBPAS.org). Do your part to help the anti-MOC movement.**

Sincerely,

Paul Teirstein, MD  
National Board of Physicians and Surgeons

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