WHEREAS; physicians are among the nation’s most rigorously trained professionals; and

WHEREAS; requirements for maintaining the skills needed to serve their patients vary greatly depending upon their patient population and chosen set of treatments offered; and

WHEREAS; no one is in a better position than the individual physician to determine how best to maintain the needed skills; and

WHEREAS; constant externally imposed study requirements tend to enforce conformity rather than encourage the independence of thought essential for professionals; and

WHEREAS; mandatory recertification is likely to reduce access to care by encouraging retirement of physicians who are providing excellent, much needed care; and

WHEREAS; the direct and indirect costs of mandatory recertification are unprecedented in any other health care profession, resulting in unreasonable and unequal burdens placed on physicians that require time away from their practices and caring for patients that is not insignificant, as well as the direct monetary costs that are used solely for the enrichment of private monopolistic corporations that inflict these unproven burdens; and

WHEREAS; mandatory recertification empowers government and disenfranchises patients and professionals; and
WHEREAS; there is currently no existing South Carolina Medical Association (SCMA) policy calling for opposition to mandatory maintenance of certification (MOC);

therefore be it

RESOLVED; that the SCMA oppose mandatory maintenance of certification for licensure, hospital privileges and reimbursement from third party payers; and be it further

RESOLVED; that the SCMA supports continuing medical education by physicians.

May 2014