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Medical Society of New Jersey opposes Maintenance of Certification

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: other professionals such as lawyers are not subjected to mandatory recertification requirements; and

Whereas: certification requirements are costly and time-intensive, requiring significant disruptions in availability of the physician for patient care; and

Whereas: there is no evidence that mandatory recertification results in any improvement in patient care; and

Whereas: there are significant conflicts of interest in agencies approved to set the requirements; and

Whereas: more than half of the highly qualified and respected faculty members of one of our best universities failed the mandated recertification examination, without any evidence that the problem was with the examinees rather than the examination; and

Whereas: constant externally imposed study requirements tend to enforce conformity rather than encourage the independence of

37 thought essential for professionals; and

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39 Whereas: mandatory recertification is likely to reduce access to care
40 by encouraging retirement of physicians who are providing excellent,
41 much needed care; and

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43 Whereas: mandatory recertification empowers government and
44 disenfranchises patients and professionals; and now therefore be it

45

46 **RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of New Jersey**
47 **acknowledges that the certification requirements within the**
48 **Maintenance of Certification process are costly, time intensive**
49 **and result in significant disruptions to the availability of**
50 **physicians for patient care; and be it further**

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52 **RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of New Jersey**
53 **acknowledges and affirms the professionalism of individual**
54 **physicians to self-determine the best means and methods for**
55 **maintenance of their knowledge and skills; and be it further**

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57 **RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of New Jersey**
58 **communicate to the American Medical Association (AMA) and**
59 **American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) examples of**
60 **disproportional fees, onerous time requirements and**
61 **unnecessary fragmentation of commonly recognized specialties;**
62 **and be it further**

63

64 **RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of New Jersey oppose**
65 **mandating Maintenance of Certification until such time as**
66 **evidence-based research demonstrates MOC is linked to**
67 **improved patient outcomes; and be it further**

68

69 **RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the**
70 **AMA House of Delegates for its consideration.**