RESOLUTION NO. 7

WHEREAS, while the current method of requiring board certification exams every seven to ten years has proven effective for some physicians to assure competency, there is dissatisfaction for many physicians due to the expense, time required away from practice, and condensed study requirements; and

WHEREAS, there is also dissatisfaction among many osteopathic physicians regarding the time and cost of the current Practice Performance Assessment modular system; and

WHEREAS, a potential alternative to the certification examinations is the use of on-going “continuous learning nodes” which demonstrate competency by regularly testing physicians on specific subject matter tailored to the physician’s type of practice; and

WHEREAS, this method requires only a few minutes of time per day to complete the examination task and resume the practice of medicine; and

WHEREAS, this new additional pathway for maintenance of board certification could provide physicians “lifetime board certification” provided these physicians enroll and are compliant in the maintenance of licensure teaching modules; and

WHEREAS, this new method of Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC)/Maintenance of Certification (MOC) would allow American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) certification a method to identify specific subsections of family medicine which could be continually reinforced and tested in a method that provides for optimum patient outcomes; and

WHEREAS, offering of an Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC)/Maintenance of Certification (MOC) to compliant physicians through the testing module could attract new residency graduates of the ACGME Single Accreditation System to AOBFP board certification; and

WHEREAS, current experience with those DO residency graduates from dual certification programs result in a majority of the DO residents opting for the American Board of Medical Specialists which will likely continue under a Single Unified Graduate Medical Education Pathway and result in the loss of ACOFP membership; and

WHEREAS, this flexibility would allow AOBFP to offer maintenance of licensure and certification for all physicians in Osteopathic focused programs by including them in the osteopathic board certification modules; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) work with the American Osteopathic Association’s Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists and the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) to study options for Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC)/Maintenance of Certification (MOC) pathway for physicians who choose AOBFP certification utilizing software such as one incorporating “intelligent learning engine” capability including consideration of a pilot program by AOBFP and report back to the Congress of Delegates at its next meeting.
RESOLVED, that if such options cannot be adequately proven to improve patient safety, quality of care and physician competency, then current methods for MOC/OCC should be carefully studied, reviewed and possibly suspended so as not to be redundant with quality and safety reporting, as well as practice activities improvement, already enumerated in the Macra Legislation.

FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of March 16, 2017