RESOLUTION NO. 9

WHEREAS, while the current method of requiring family medicine board certification requires an exam every eight years with maintenance of certification has some benefit for some physicians to assure competency, there is dissatisfaction for many physicians due to the maintenance of certification modules, expense, time required away from practice, and condensed study requirements; and

WHEREAS, development of a new additional pathway for continuous maintenance of board certification could provide physicians continuous lifetime board certification provided these physicians enroll and are compliant in the continuous life-long board certification teaching modules; and

WHEREAS, a new method of continuous life-long board certification would allow the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) a method to identify specific subsections of medicine and surgery based on scope of practice that could be continually reinforced and tested in a method that provides for optimum patient outcomes; and

WHEREAS, offering of a continuous life-long certification CME process could attract new residency graduates of the ACGME Single Accreditation System to AOBFP, especially since the ACGME is proposing to eliminate the requirement to take American Osteopathic Association (AOA) board certification for 80% of graduates from Osteopathic Recognized residency programs; and

WHEREAS, current experience with osteopathic residency graduates from dually accredited programs result in a majority of the DO residents opting for the American Board of Medical Specialists (ABMS) examination which will likely continue under a Single Accreditation System and result in the loss of AOA membership, and

WHEREAS, this flexibility would allow AOA to offer CME, maintenance of licensure, and board certification for all physicians in Osteopathic CME recognized programs by including them in this new osteopathic board certification method; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) requests that the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) study, develop, and promote a continuous life-long board certification pathway for residents and physicians who choose AOA/AOBFP board certification utilizing continuous learning.

ACTION _____________________