

SUBJECT: The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Exercises Caution When Considering Certification Changes

SUBMITTED BY: ACOFP Board of Governors

REFERRED TO: 2019 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

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RESOLUTION NO. 26

1 WHEREAS, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) is one of two deemed certifying  
2 bodies for physicians; and

3 WHEREAS, the AOA certifies many different specialties; and

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5 WHEREAS, certification is now an ongoing, continuous process throughout a physician's  
6 career; and

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8 WHEREAS, once a physician becomes certified, it is likely for that physician to continue  
9 certification with his or her certifying body; and

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11 WHEREAS, the various specialty certifying boards are most likely the best informed regarding  
12 their candidates' desires in relation to their needs regarding certification; and

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14 WHEREAS, each specialty has its own unique needs based on its own practice parameters and  
15 job task analysis; and

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17 WHEREAS, it is not reasonable to approach each specialty as if it was the same as all other  
18 specialties; and

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20 WHEREAS, the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS) is to be the oversight bureau for  
21 certification; and

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23 WHEREAS, the BOS needs to function as a full body and not a validating group for the BOS  
24 Executive Committee; and

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26 WHEREAS, certification is a physician issue and not a staff issue; and

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28 WHEREAS, physicians are the major stakeholders in certification decision outcomes; and

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30 WHEREAS, there is an ongoing concerted effort to develop a universal approach to  
31 certification for all specialties; now, therefore, be it

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- 33 RESOLVED, that the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), as the certifying entity, move  
34 more cautiously with sweeping changes in certification process; and, be it further  
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- 36 RESOLVED, that the full body of the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialties (BOS) needs to have  
37 open and valid discussion of any changes in certifications; and, be it further  
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- 39 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFPP) urge the  
40 AOA Board of Trustees to become actively involved in true discussions with the  
41 certifying boards before adopting changes in the certification process; and, be it further  
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- 43 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP forward this resolution to the AOA House of Delegates.

ACTION \_\_\_\_\_