



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

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October 4, 2017

The Honorable Theresa Gavarone
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St – 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Email: rep03@ohiohouse.gov

Dear Representative Gavarone,

On behalf of the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) and over 400 members in Ohio, we are writing to convey our support for HB 273. This bill allows for the use of, but prohibits physicians from being required to secure maintenance of certification (MOC) in order to obtain licensure, reimbursement, employment, or hospital admitting privileges. The ACG is a physician organization that currently represents over 14,000 members providing gastroenterological specialty care. We focus on the issues confronting the gastrointestinal specialist in delivering high quality patient care.

ACG supports the principles of lifelong learning for physicians, as evidenced by ongoing continuing medical education (CME) activities, rather than an onerous process of lifelong testing with redundant requirements levied by an independent third party. This process significantly impacts the ability of physicians to practice medicine. MOC has devolved into a high-stakes testing prerequisite for employment, credentialing, or reimbursement with little reflection of how physicians actually practice medicine. There are no studies or medical evidence that demonstrate the value of MOC to patients or physicians. Instead, MOC is overly burdensome and costly, ironically requiring physicians to spend significant time away from their practice and taking care of their patients.

The ACG wants to be clear in the difference between MOC and the initial board certification, which we believe is an important milestone to distinguish physicians that have undergone and mastered subspecialty medical and surgical training. MOC is also different from CME activities, which are requirements physicians complete in order to maintain state medical licensure.

As the College is committed to physician demonstration of lifelong learning, not lifelong testing, we urge revisions in the bill's language. Specifically, the bill includes continuing educational activities in the definition of "MOC." ACG instead urges the definition to focus on the periodic recertification, or maintenance requirements for a physician after initial board certification.

We look forward to working with you and answering any questions you may have regarding the MOC process, recertification requirements, and the importance of continuing medical education in the field of gastroenterology. Please contact Brad Conway, Vice President of Public Policy, Coverage & Reimbursement at 301.263.9000 or bconway@gi.org. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



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