

1 **RESOLUTION NO. *** (Florida A)**

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3 **Reimagining Family Medicine Board Recertification**

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5 Introduced by the Florida Chapter

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7 Referred to the Reference Committee on ***

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9 Whereas, page four (4) of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) [Continuing](#)
10 [Board Certification: Vision for the Future](#) report (February 2019) states the initiative was
11 “designed to reimagine a system of continuing certification that had four functional
12 components” the first of which is to “become a meaningful, contemporary, and relevant
13 professional development activity for diplomates and ensures they remain up to date in their
14 specialty,” and

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16 Whereas, a Journal Article Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment (LLSA) continuing
17 certification process guides diplomates to select from a comprehensive list of recent
18 articles (e.g., American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology’s (ABOG) implementation,
19 150 all published within the past three years) that may be grouped by subject content (e.g.,
20 core Family Medicine, Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) areas, etc.) thus ensuring a
21 professional development activity relevant to the wide range of physician practices and
22 further ensuring those practices are grounded in current evidence-based information, and

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24 Whereas, an LLSA process facilitates inclusion of evolving topics that can be presented in
25 innovative formats (e.g., COVID, health care disparities, unconscious bias – see ABOG
26 “Press Pause Video” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Z6Xk1acfkM>) providing a
27 meaningful and contemporary continuing certification activity, and

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29 Whereas, the American Board of Family Medicine’s (ABFM) 10-year exam and Family
30 Medicine Certification Longitudinal Assessment (FMCLA) question bank formats are not
31 comparable adult learning principle alternatives to an LLSA format because they do not
32 guide diplomates to recent relevant literature, promote in-depth analysis of recent medical
33 literature, or encourage critical thinking in applying new information to the practice of
34 medicine which is a defining trait of family physicians in both training and practice
35 compared to other health care providers, and

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37 Whereas, the ABFM 10-year exam and FMCLA structure is not conducive to guiding
38 diplomates toward developing sensitivities to evolving contemporary topics nor does the
39 structure lend itself to innovative educational formats, and

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41 Whereas, given the *ABMS Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future*
42 Commission’s emphasis on “meaningful, contemporary, and relevant professional
43 development activity” and the ability of the LLSA continuing certification format to satisfy
44 that emphasis, it would seem reasonable to allow successful completion of an LLSA
45 activity to satisfy ABFM maintenance of certification (MOC) part III requirements, and

46 Whereas, Drs. Martin Quan and Warren Newton’s commentary article (*Helping Family*
47 *Physicians Keep Up To Date: A Next Step in the Pursuit of Mastery. The Journal of the*
48 *American Board of Family Medicine. 2020; 33(Supplement): S24-S27,*) summarized the
49 benefits of the journal article approach to MOC, specifically the fact that five (5) other
50 boards are currently developing some form of journal article-based MOC process,
51 including the successful implementation of this approach by other ABMS boards like
52 ABOG, and

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54 Whereas, neither the above-mentioned commentary nor ABFM’s CEO Dr. Warren
55 Newton’s letter to AAFP Board Chair Dr. John Cullen’s September 29, 2020, responding to
56 2019 AAFP Congress of Delegates Substitute Resolution No. 608, commits to developing
57 and implementing, on a timely basis, an LLSA journal article MOC alternative which “the
58 AAFP believes would be beneficial to our mutual stakeholders – family physicians and
59 their patients,” and

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61 Whereas, the *ABMS Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future* report’s second
62 short term and intermediate recommendation is “The ABMS Boards must regularly
63 communicate with their diplomates about the standards for the specialty and encourage
64 feedback about the programs,” now, therefore, be it

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66 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) request the
67 American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) formally commit to creating a Lifelong
68 Learning and Self-Assessment (LLSA) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part III
69 alternative to the ABFM’s 10-year exam and Family Medicine Certification Longitudinal
70 Assessment (FMCLA), and be it further

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72 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) request the
73 American Board of Family Medicine’s (ABFM) new Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment
74 (LLSA) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part III alternative be implemented within three
75 (3) years or by 2024, given the successful implementation of similar pilots by other
76 American Board of Medical Specialty (ABMS) boards, and be it further

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78 RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) request the
79 American Board of Family Medicine’s (ABFM) new Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment
80 (LLSA) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part III alternative offer at least 150 articles,
81 including core Family Medicine articles, relevant to Certificate of Added Qualification
82 (CAQ) areas and at least five (5) related to emerging topics, including health care
83 disparities, from which diplomates can select practice relevant articles personalized to their
84 individualized scope of practice and promote current, evidenced-based standards of care.