



American Board of Physician Specialties

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March 17, 2018

RE: Raised Bill No. 402

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing to you on behalf of the American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS) and its physician Diplomates currently practicing in Connecticut. The American Board of Physician Specialties is one of the nation's recognized certifying bodies for both allopathic (MD) and osteopathic (DO) physicians. The ABPS has Diplomates in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Canada. We take immense pride in setting rigorous standards of certification in 18 areas of medical practice.

The ABPS has adopted a position of “**opposed, unless amended**” to the proposed bill regarding advertising of board certification. It appears that in the proposed bill which has listed the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) while excluding the American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS). We respectfully request your assistance in amending the bill to include the American Board of Physician Specialties in Section 1 (2) (b) (A).

As written, the language in the bill is unfair and monopolistic. If passed, this bill will actively exclude physicians' board certified by our organization and will force most physicians into becoming members of either ABMS or AOA creating de facto monopolies for both organizations. This is anti-free market and protectionism being force on physicians to protect two private board certification organizations.

Further, by eliminating the pathway for other boards of certification, the bill would only allow one, private, nonprofit organizations, the ABMS, to recognize board certification for emerging medical specialties. This poses a significant challenge for many specialty organizations, especially given that ABMS was neither reviewed nor approved by the State of Connecticut, and ABMS maintains self-created limits on recognizing additional medical specialties once they have recognized a specialty within a broad range of medical practice fields.

Attached you will find documentation that will factually support our claim that all ABPS affiliated boards of certification are part of the current recognized standard for physician board certification along with the ABMS and the AOA.

The Department of Labor's recently redefined the definition of Physician Board Certification which now includes ABPS, along with ABMS and AOA in their Occupational Outlook Handbook.

In addition, ABPS's certification is recognized by many other state licensing authorities as well as federal programs such as the Veterans Health Administration, United States Armed Forces under the GI Bill and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Further, ABPS is recognized and listed on Healthgrades, America's leading online resource for consumers.

All ABPS Diplomates and applicants have been primary source verified by Med Advantage, an accredited Credentials Verification Organization (CVO) by both The Joint Commission and National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

ABPS examinations, procedures, and protocols not only meet the highest standards possible, but are clinically, psychometrically, and legally defensible.

An objective third party and industry leader (Castle Worldwide) conducted a comprehensive assessment of the ABPS' rigorous standards and found that they were equivalent or better to those set by bigger certifying boards, including ABMS and AOA, which are recognized by your bill.

For the reasons listed above and after a thorough review of the attached information, we sincerely hope that you will agree that the American Board of Physician Specialties deserves to be recognized as a physician specialty certifying board and will amend the proposed bill regarding advertising of board certification.

If you would like us to provide additional information or respond to any inquiries you may have concerning the ABPS and/or any of its affiliated Boards of Certification, please do not hesitate to contact me at (405)921-7080, or via email at lgraymurphy@aol.com.

Thank you for your consideration,

Linda Gray Murphy

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