**November 22, 2019**

Dear XXX,

I am contacting this hospital to advocate for acceptance of an alternative continuing board certification pathway. Last month the Medical Society of Virginia voted on the following resolutions:

1) MOC is costly and time intensive, and results in significant disruptions to the availability of physicians for patient care

2) MSV reaffirms the value of continuing medical education, while opposing mandatory MOC as a requirement for licensure, hospital privileges, and reimbursement from third party payers, and;

3) MSV will communicate our position regarding MOC to the AMA, specialty societies, universities, and physician and industry groups involved with independent continuing medical, clinical, and scientific education.

ABMS board certification requires two parts, initial certification and maintenance of certification (MOC). There is controversy surrounding the requirements for MOC. Many physicians believe current MOC requirements are onerous, time-wasting, not meaningful and unnecessarily expensive. In response to this discontent, an alternative board, the **National Board of Physicians and Surgeons (NBPAS**) was formed. NBPAS provides an alternative pathway for the maintenance phase of certification. I am writing to request credentialing requirements accept NBPAS certification as an alternative to ABMS certification. I understand that Delegate Sam Rasoul has sponsored legislation in Virginia for the last two years and is currently working on legislation for the upcoming 2020 General Assembly session in support of MOC Reform and NBPAS which allows for physician choice in recertification.

Importantly, many published studies have found no association between MOC or recertification and improved patient outcomes (see references below). Most physicians participating in MOC activities find they learn very little from the experience. Most of the time spent studying for the computer modules and exam is spent studying aspects of medicine that are irrelevant to their practice. In fact, in response to criticism from NBPAS, various medical societies and other organizations, many ABMS member boards are now starting to change their MOC processes, thereby validating NBPAS criticism. The American Board of Anesthesiology has discontinued the 10 year re-certification exam and the American Board of Internal Medicine's own task force has recommended the same.

NBPAS has now been selected as the certifying body for over 6,000 physicians. NBPAS offers certification in all ABMS specialties. Physicians across the country are crying out for change and asking for endorsement of NBPAS. Acceptance of NBPAS by XXX will be extremely helpful to physicians throughout the country. Conversely, rejection by XXX will be very harmful. We ask XXX to change its credentialing requirements to either specifically endorse NBPAS for continuing certification or limit its certification requirements to initial certification.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

XXX XXX, M.D.