



**American Board  
of Medical Specialties**  
*Higher standards. Better care.®*

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## **ABMS Statement Regarding State of Oklahoma SB 1148 And Similar State Legislative Efforts**

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is disappointed with Oklahoma State Senate Bill 1148 (The Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act). As enacted, it misrepresents the role and value of Board Certification and Maintenance of Certification (MOC). Specialty and subspecialty certification are important quality indicators, and ABMS encourages hospitals and insurers to consider it when granting or delineating clinical privileges, along with other credentials such as a physician's education, training, practice experience, and performance.

ABMS policy states that neither specialty nor subspecialty certification should be the sole determinant in granting and delineating the scope of a physician's clinical privileges. We strongly support hospitals and health systems having the autonomy to determine the criteria they wish to use when making independent decisions about whom they grant practice privileges.

ABMS believes the values that Board Certification and MOC embody are more important today than ever. Patients and the public expect physicians to stay abreast of the advancements in their respective specialty areas and to be competent practitioners in a rapidly changing health care environment. Physicians' participation in this voluntary program reflects their commitment to life-long learning, performance improvement, and the provision of high quality care. Like the physician specialists they certify, ABMS Member Boards are committed to improving their programs for physician certification and assuring that participation in MOC provides physicians with meaningful improvement opportunities.