



November 14, 2015

David G. Nichols, MD MBA  
President and CEO  
The American Board of Pediatrics  
111 Silver Cedar Court  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Dr. Nichols:

We on the ASPHO Board wish to participate in the dialogue regarding pediatric subspecialists' concerns around Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements. We have had the opportunity to participate in discussions with the Society for Pediatric Research (SPR), Council of Pediatric Subspecialties, and colleagues around the country. The ASPHO Board is in agreement with several points made during those discussions, especially in the area of MOC Part 4. One is the lack of engagement of stakeholders broadly representative of the pediatric physician community in addressing those issues in MOC that cause controversy. The second is the excessive burden on physicians because the MOC system is excessively cumbersome and costly, *even taking into account* the "portfolio" system and recently shortened applications.

We stand in agreement with our colleagues in the SPR on the following: "We want to emphasize that our groups are committed to the premise of continuing medical education, clinical excellence, professional self-regulation, and continued improvement of the quality of health care for children. We support the mission espoused by the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) and the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)."

We acknowledge the recent changes in the current MOC program, and do understand them after taking a close look by trying out the application processes. We have explored the changes including the application for 1-10 physicians, and find, in MOC Part 4, that there is still a commitment to requiring process improvement methodology as per The Improvement Methods, with a mandatory "2 PDSA cycles". There is much work going on in the country to improve care that is not according to this model, and we need ways to credit even that simple work.

While we did not sign on to the recent group letter, the ASPHO board, on behalf of our members who are physician scientists, clinicians, clinical investigators and educators, requests the opportunity to participate in discussion with the various pediatric specialties together with ABP leadership to discuss all aspects of MOC.



We appreciate the opportunity to work together in a positive and constructive fashion. We look forward to a productive dialogue grounded in our mutual commitment to deliver quality health care to children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne Hilden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joanne Hilden, MD  
President

cc: Virginia Moyer, MD  
Marshall Land, Jr., MD  
Sally Weir, CAE