

Please vote “NO” on HB 1710

HB 1710 is a very confusing bill and difficult to understand...

Essentially, the bill prohibits Health Plans and Hospitals from considering whether a physician has participated in his or her specialty’s continuing education (maintenance of certification) when credentialing that provider.

The bill says that a Health Plan may not refuse a physician into their network because the physician has not kept up his or her board certification (maintenance of certification).

- Health Plans and Hospitals need to have confidence that the board-certified physicians they are credentialing to provide highly specialized medical care to their members and patients are keeping up with new medical knowledge in their specialties.

Boards require physicians to engage in continuing education in order to maintain their board certification status. That is what “maintenance of certification” means.

- This is a critical piece of their ongoing education, as medicine is changing all the time.

Oklahoma patients, families, and communities expect and trust that when they receive medical care from a board-certified physician, that physician has exceptional expertise in his or her declared specialty or subspecialty.

- In order for this to be true, it is imperative that the doctor is up-to-date in the knowledge and skills of the specialty – not just at the point of initial certification, but throughout the physician’s professional career.

Patients and the public can only be assured of this if board certified physicians are actively participating in a professional development process that includes external assessment, medical education, and practice improvement. For American Board of Medical Specialties Board Certified physicians, Maintenance of Certification (MOC) is that essential process.

Please do not let Oklahoma become the only state in the Nation that puts its patients’ quality of care at risk by removing Maintenance of Certification requirements for physicians practicing specialized medicine.

We appreciate your “no” vote on HB 1710.

