



APSA
American Pediatric
Surgical Association
Saving Lifetimes

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American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) Position Statement on
Continuing Board Certification
in support of the
American Board of Medical Specialties

January 15, 2019

The vision of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is that Continuing Board Certification will create a system of continuing certification that demonstrates a physician's commitment to safe, quality, contemporary care and aligns with international and national standards for certification programs

The purpose of continuing certification is for physicians to keep up to date with current standards of practice and patient care. For pediatric surgeons, the process of continuing certification will be required to maintain board certification by the American Board of Surgery. Board certification means that a surgeon has met standards of professional development for safe, up to date patient care. The process of both initial and continuing board certification is meant to foster continuing learning and to ensure the public safety.

Despite the goals of the ABMS and the Commission for Continuing Board Certification, a small but vocal minority of physicians in the United States have expressed discontent with this process, calling upon state legislatures to make laws prohibiting the use of Continuing Certification for physician licensure, hospital privileging, reimbursement and employment.

The American Pediatric Surgical Association (APSA) fully embraces Continuing Certification and is strongly opposed to any legislation prohibiting it. Such legislation interferes with the right of any physician association to set standards within its own community, interferes with a hospital's responsibility to set standards for its physicians and denies patients the right to know if their physician meets the standards for board certification and whether they are up to date in their fields. APSA believes that Continuing Certification is vital to provide the public safe, quality, contemporary care. We fully support the ABMS vision for the future statement for continuing physician education and certification and are against any efforts to limit or prohibit programs fostering these goals.