



American Board of Medical Specialties

Higher standards. Better care.®

American Board of Medical Specialties
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December 2, 2013

Congressman Dave Camp, Chairman
Congressman Sandy Levin, Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives
Ways and Means Committee
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

For several years Congress has grappled with the challenge of federal deficit reduction. The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) recognizes the difficult choices that lie ahead and appreciates this opportunity to offer its perspective on the importance of continued federal support for high quality graduate medical education (GME).

ABMS is a not-for-profit organization consisting of 24 Medical Specialty Boards that certify the quality of physicians in 150 medical specialties and subspecialties. More than 800,000 licensed US physicians are certified by one of the 24 ABMS Member Boards, and more than half of these participate in ABMS Maintenance of Certification, our program of continuing certification. We anticipate that all ABMS Board certified medical specialists will participate in continuing certification within the next decade.

Certification by an ABMS Member Board attests to a medical specialist's training, skills, knowledge and life-long engagement in self-assessment, learning, and improvement. These important attributes are developed and nurtured in residency training and strengthened throughout the medical specialist's career.

There is little national consensus regarding the accountabilities for GME program performance, the adequacy and distribution of our nation's medical specialty workforce, or the extent to which publicly funded residency programs should be expected to address national medical care resource needs. The Institute of Medicine's forthcoming recommendations regarding GME program governance and financing promise to advance the national dialogue regarding funding for GME. And the National Health Care Workforce Commission established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, if funded, would inform a strategic approach to national medical workforce development and retention. We look forward to the availability of such resources to better inform national policy.

Member Boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties

American Board of Allergy and Immunology | American Board of Anesthesiology | American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery | American Board of Dermatology
American Board of Emergency Medicine | American Board of Family Medicine | American Board of Internal Medicine | American Board of Medical Genetics
American Board of Neurological Surgery | American Board of Nuclear Medicine | American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology | American Board of Ophthalmology
American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery | American Board of Otolaryngology | American Board of Pathology | American Board of Pediatrics
American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation | American Board of Plastic Surgery | American Board of Preventive Medicine | American Board of Psychiatry
and Neurology | American Board of Radiology | American Board of Surgery | American Board of Thoracic Surgery | American Board of Urology

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Chair

Valerie M. Parisi, MD, MPH, MBA
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John G. Clarkson, MD
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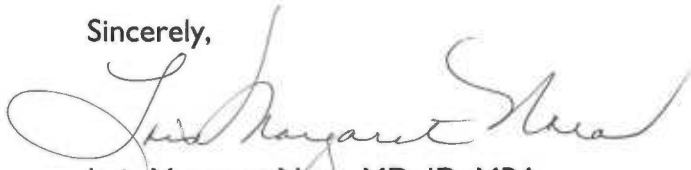
John B. McCabe, MD
Immediate Past Chair

Lois Margaret Nora, MD, JD, MBA
President and CEO

We believe continued federal support will be essential to assure the stability and sustainability of high-quality residency training and access to needed medical specialty care for all Americans. We urge you to oppose Medicare GME reductions as part of deficit reduction efforts and encourage, instead, a broader consideration of physician workforce policy.

Please contact me if you have any questions or we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lois Margaret Nora". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lois Margaret Nora, MD, JD, MBA
President and Chief Executive Officer