



Alaska Optometric Association

Alaska's Authority on Primary Eye & Vision Care

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AKOA Resolution on the proposal by the JBCPT for Optometric Board Certification

WHEREAS, the Alaska Optometric Association (AKOA) represents a near one hundred optometrists in the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the AKOA mission is to influence the future of eye care by ensuring the welfare of Alaskans and promoting the continued development of the profession of optometry.

WHEREAS, the AKOA is the acknowledged leader and recognized authority for primary eye and vision care in Alaska.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of AKOA have considered the change in landscape of healthcare in the United States today, including Value Driven Healthcare, PQRI, E-prescribing, Pay for Performance and other models that are evaluating the performance of physicians and healthcare professionals as well as critiquing their competence; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Board Certification Project Team (JBCPT) has presented a proposal and model to form the American Board of Optometry (ABO); and

WHEREAS, the JBCPT has presented a model of inclusion for all Optometrists to become board eligible immediately, mechanisms for obtaining board certification and a model for maintenance of certification; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the AKOA polled its membership and the membership responded both in support and opposition with the chief concern being that the proposed Board Certification model overweight's the points granted for residency training; and

WHEREAS, that on June 14, 2009, the Board of Directors of AKOA discussed this issue and recognized the need for Board Certification and the concerns of the AKOA membership;

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of AKOA approved a motion to voice the concerns brought forward by the AKOA membership; and

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors of AKOA approved a motion to allow the Alaska delegation to consider any final resolution or proposal at the AOA's House of Delegates at Optometry's Meeting and to vote accordingly to continue to advance the profession of Optometry.

Sincerely,

James Falconer, Jr, OD
President