Dear Dr. Faulkner,

The American Epilepsy Society (AES) is the leading U.S. organization of nearly 4,000 clinical and research professionals specializing in the treatment and care of people with epilepsy. We support and encourage our physician members’ participation in the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology Specialty certification in Epilepsy. We are committed to lifelong learning and the continuing improvement of care for persons with epilepsy, both through clinical practice and scientific discovery.

We believe that requirements for maintenance of certification must be grounded in evidence-based approaches that can demonstrate effectiveness in improving patient care. For this reason, the American Epilepsy Society joins the American Academy of Neurology in asking for the ABPN to eliminate Part IV of its Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements - Improvement in Medical Practice.

The American Epilepsy Society believes that Part IV is an unnecessarily burdensome requirement and we ask ABPN to repeal Part IV of the MOC. The process involved in Part IV is cumbersome, especially in the absence of convincing research showing that it is effective. It is our hope that ABPN will consider revising its MOC requirements, ensuring that MOC remains relevant and valued by physicians and their patients.

Our mission is aligned with ABPN in adherence to the highest standards in medicine and we continue to support our members as they seek lifelong education. Since ABPN created the subspecialty certification in Epilepsy, AES has developed and offered a self-assessment in epilepsy program that may be used for the ABPN Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part II. This self-assessment program is a core component of AES’s continuing education program and we are proud that this self-assessment program has been well-received both by those seeking specialty certification in epilepsy and those who utilize this resource as a way to maintain current knowledge.

We hope you will seriously consider this call for change. We are available to provide additional comments if needed. If we can be of additional help please contact our Executive Director, Eileen Murray, at emurray@aesnet.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Brooks-Kayal, MD
President, American Epilepsy Society
Chief and Ponzio Family Chair, Children’s Hospital Colorado
Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology, University of Colorado School of Medicine