

### **Professional Standards and Self-Regulation**

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The American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) supports the ability of the medical profession to set its own professional standards and opposes state legislation that interferes with and/or restricts this activity.

The Academy supports and firmly embraces the tenets of professionalism, including the essential commitment to life-long learning and performance improvement, as well as the profession's privileged and honored obligation to self-regulate.

Certifying boards are formed to fulfill professional self-regulation through ongoing assessment of physician knowledge and practice performance. Participating in and obtaining board certification designed by the profession is one method of demonstrating professionalism and a commitment to higher standards.

The Academy is opposed to external interference, from outside the medical profession, that restricts the profession from carrying out these responsibilities, and is seriously concerned about the consequences of relinquishing professional regulation to state governments.

The AAPM&R actively advocates on behalf of our members that the certification processes and requirements must be relevant and valuable, and avoid unnecessary and excessive burden on the participant. We strongly believe that these considerations must be resolved by the profession itself, without legislative interference. Interference in this commitment will ultimately harm the profession's ability to maintain the highest standards for professionalism.

AAPM&R Board of Governors

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