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Human Resources and Facilities  
April 2, 2003

**Weldon (Don) Havins, MD, Esq.**  
**CEO and Special Counsel, CCMS**

**Scott M. Craigie**  
**Nevada State Medical Association**

The Legislative Core Group of the Nevada State Medical Association voted unanimously to request that SB 332, Sec. 7., paragraph 2, be amended to ADD an "or" after (6) and ADD "(7) *Is certified by a specialty board of the American Board of Medical Specialties.*"

As SB 332 is written, ABMS certification only substitutes for the 3 progressive postgraduate years of training currently required in NRS 630 (Medical Practice Act).

This would permit a doctor's certification by an American Board of Medical Specialties to substitute for the requirements of passing the United States Medical Licensure Examination (USMLE), Part III, after the first postgraduate year.

This amendment is necessary because Nevada Administrative Code 630.080 requires that Part III of the USMLE be passed AFTER the first postgraduate year. Part III of the USMLE is normally taken DURING the first postgraduate year (and the majority of physicians pass). Thus, only physicians that flunk Part III of the USMLE in their first postgraduate year and pass in a subsequent year are eligible for licensure in Nevada. If one wanted to minimize the number of new physicians licensed in Nevada, this is the way to do it. This statutory change would permit physicians who have achieved American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certification to apply for a Nevada License.

The compelling nature of this amendment is exemplified by Dr. Keith Brill, a board certified OBGYN at the Nellis Air Force Base wants to practice in Clark County when he finishes his USAF active duty service in a few months. Dr. Brill was told by the NBME's licensing personal that he could not be licensed in Nevada because he passed Part III of the USMLE during his first post-graduate year and thus could not qualify for a license under the NBME's NAC 630.080.

The other amendments to Nevada law contained in SB 332 were unanimously supported.