Proctored exam unfair

The decision of the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) to have practicing pediatricians take a proctored exam every seven years to keep their board certification is unfair because of the time, stress and expense involved (for registration and travel) imposed on only some physicians (with time-limited board certification).

These days, most of us end up taking the recertification exam not because it necessarily increases our knowledge or skills, but to keep our privileges with the hospital and the insurance companies. Having taken one proctored exam after my residency in 1989 (missed the ABP life certification by just few months) and passing two computer-based programs for renewal of certification in pediatrics (PRCP), I feel attending the seminars for continuing education (and we all take at least 25 hours every year as required by the California Medical Board) increases our knowledge and skills much more than these recertification exams do. So why this seven-year recertification exam also is proctored?

Valjayanti S. Koldhekar, M.D., F. AP Duarte, Calif.